

**THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES**

**Genesis 49:1-12**

**INTRODUCTION**

In Genesis 49, Joseph will pronounce blessings on each of his sons, prophesying details about how each one will finish. Scripture does not identify the Christian's life as a sprint, but as a walk or long distance race. The Olympics have a motto - "The essential thing is to have fought well." At stake for every believer is finishing well. Emphasis is on the quality of our race, how are we advancing and making progress. Valuable lessons to meditate upon, as God reveals **The Course Of Our Lives**.

**DIGGING DEEPER**

This lesson will cover Genesis 49:1-12. Read it several times. Jacob's first four sons born to Leah offer a rich study on how their actions and attitudes direct their place in Israel's history. If we could look into the future and see our lives, what would we see? The Lord knows and guides **The Course Of Our Lives**. Let us finish our race with joy. *Acts 20:24, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. Selah*

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 49:1-2. Jacob gathers his sons. He talks about their lives and prophesies their future. Beloved, God's involvement in your life provides all you need to finish well. **Romans 9:16.** Run your race to receive the prize. **1 Corinthians 9:24.**

II. Genesis 49:3-4. Reuben – unstable as water. Reuben had great potential, and Jacob had high hopes for him. Reuben had some good moments, but he couldn't keep his lust in check. Lust can destroy and affect the whole family. You cannot be passive in these matters. Be aggressive with temptation and inner passion. **1 Corinthians 9:25-27, 2 Timothy 2:5.**

III. Genesis 49:5-7. Simeon and Levi – instruments of cruelty. Murdering the men of Schechem with unrestrained anger, Jacob distances himself from these two sons. **Proverbs 22:24.** Simeon will shrink to the smallest tribe, with his inheritance absorbed into Judah. Unrepentant, Simeon is still in the family of God, but not an effective influence for the kingdom. Unrepentance leads to unproductiveness. Unlike Simeon, Levi's tribe is selected by God for holy service, standing with Moses on the Lord's side. Chosen, consecrated, and confirmed by the Lord to minister throughout Israel, Levi also will not receive a tribal inheritance, but be scattered in 48 cities of refuge. What happened? **Ephesians 4:31.** Given opportunity, repent of all sin, turn to God and serve Him faithfully as He calls!

IV. Genesis 49:8-12. Judah – your brothers shall praise. Judah was far from perfect, but he did step up on behalf of Benjamin. Judah is seen as the lion (king), has the scepter (authority to judge), and through his family line Shiloh (Jesus the Messiah) will come. William Carey said "Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God." Step up, beloved...What great things the Lord has in store for one who will fully trust in Him **1 Corinthians 2:9, Ephesians 3:19-21**

V. Genesis 49:10. Shiloh. From Judah comes Shiloh – he whose right it is to judge. He is the chief ruler (**1 Chronicles 5:2**); Messiah the Prince (**Daniel 9:25**); the choice vine (**Zechariah 9:9**); whose garments are washed in wine (**Isaiah 63:1-4**). This is a person - Jesus Christ!

The Lord has mapped out a great and fruitful future for us all. He will guide us through **The Course Of Our Lives**. So....

**CONSIDER .....** How do we get ourselves in a position to not just run, but finish well? Be crazy for God, beloved.

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| o Your Training ... | Daily disciplines are critical!          | <b>Romans 12:1-2</b>  |
| o Your Coach ...    | Jesus is committed to you!               | <b>Hebrews 12:1-3</b> |
| o Your Focus ...    | Stay on course. Your Future is in sight! | <b>Jude 1:24-25</b>   |

***"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally..." 2 Timothy 2:7***  
***"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,..." 2 Corinthians 5:10a***

**PRAY .....**

- o that the Lord would reveal areas where you are not running your race well and seek to make the corrections.
- o for eyes to see any area of unrepentance, any area of lust, any area of unbelief that may be hindering you from running your race well.
- o for an unwavering desire to finish your race well, looking unto Jesus!
- o for a desire for righteousness in our nation's leaders.
- o for each of our missionaries as the Lord brings them to remembrance.