



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis Sermon Series

Supports Session 13: Revenge?

Sermon Title: “The God Who Plans Ahead” (Genesis 49:8-12)

### Connection to Session 13

Joseph forgave his brothers because he could see God’s hand at work. We have a God who plans ahead, and His plan is seen in Jacob’s blessings to his twelve sons. His blessing on Judah was a hint of God’s plan to send the Messiah.

### Introduction/Opening

Human plans may fail, but God’s plans never do. When Adam and Eve committed the first sin in the Garden of Eden, God was not taken by surprise. He already had a plan in place to deal with it. He revealed that plan bit by bit throughout the Old Testament. When Jacob was getting ready to die, he blessed his twelve sons. He pronounced a special blessing on his fourth son, Judah. From his descendants, rulers would arise, and all of the other descendants of Jacob would bow down before them. However, there was one particular Ruler who would be like none of the others. He would not only rule the entire world, but He would have an everlasting kingdom. That Ruler, of course, was the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Outline

#### 1. His power (vv. 8-9).

- a) Jacob was getting ready to die, so he gave his final blessing to each of his sons.
  - i. The greatest blessing usually went to the oldest son, but Reuben’s sin had disqualified him from receiving it (Gen. 35:22).
  - ii. Simeon and Levi were also disqualified because of their violence (Gen. 34).
- b) Judah was the fourth son, so he received the greatest blessing.
  - i. Jacob compared him to a baby lion. He might not seem like much at the moment, but he would grow into something strong and powerful.
  - ii. Lions often symbolized rulers. Judah’s descendants included many kings, including David, Israel’s greatest king.

#### 2. His permanence (v. 10).

- a) Jacob said, “The scepter will not depart from Judah.” That is, Judah’s descendants would rule over Israel forever.
  - i. This could not refer to David, because he only reigned forty years.
  - ii. His descendants also had temporary reigns.
- b) “Until he whose right it is comes”—God had appointed a special King who would someday rise from the tribe of Judah, and He would reign forever.

- i. This is clearly a prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:5).
- ii. Throughout the Old Testament, God reiterated His promise to send His special Ruler who would reign forever (Isa. 9:6-7).
- c) “The obedience of the peoples belongs to him”—Obviously, not everyone obeyed Jesus, but we must remember that His story has not ended yet.
  - i. Jesus said, “If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32). He was referring to His death.
  - ii. Jesus has died and has risen again. He is still in the process of drawing people to Himself through the proclamation of the Gospel.
  - iii. Ultimately, everyone will bow down before Him (Phil. 2:10-11).

### 3. His prosperity (vv. 11-12).

- a) He would tie his donkey “to a vine” and wash “his clothes in wine.”
  - i. No sane person would tie his donkey to a grape vine because the donkey would inevitably eat many of the grapes.
  - ii. Wine was an expensive commodity, and no one would use it to wash clothes.
  - iii. The picture here is one of great wealth and extravagance.
- b) Jacob was saying that life under the King’s rule would be unbelievably prosperous.
  - i. Those who follow Him will also be prosperous, but not necessarily in this life.
  - ii. We have an eternal home in heaven where there is wealth beyond measure. Unlike the wealth of this world, it will never pass away.

### Conclusion

One of the all-time great political humorists was Will Rogers. In one of his monologues, he evaluated the various plans that political leaders had proposed for dealing with the Great Depression. One of them was the inheritance tax. The key sponsor of the plan gave very specific numbers on how much revenue it would bring in each year, but Will Rogers noted a major flaw in it. He said, “I guess he knows who’s going to die each year, and how much they’re going to leave? Now that’s planning, ain’t it?” Of course, his comment got a big laugh from the audience.

Plans proposed by the government can fail. Our own plans for the future often fail. However, God’s plans never fail. Unlike us, He knows what the future holds, and nothing ever takes Him by surprise. He will carry His plans to completion. He promised to send the Messiah, and He did. He promised that the Messiah would die for our sins and rise from the dead, and He did. We can believe Him when He says the Messiah is coming again, and that He has prepared an eternal home for us. He is a God who plans ahead.

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