

CHAPTER ELEVEN

ABRAHAM'S DESCENDENTS

We have already talked about Isaac, Abraham's son who was the promised one through whom Abraham would become the father of a great family/nation. The life of Isaac was type of the life of Christ. You know that Esau and Jacob were Isaac's sons. Remember, Jacob accepted the promise of God. He showed his faith by serving and fruit-bearing. The work that he did was evidence of his faith. As a result, Jacob was blessed more than his brother.

GEN 28:14

14 AND THY SEED SHALL BE AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH, AND THOU SHALT SPREAD ABROAD TO THE WEST, AND TO THE EAST, AND TO THE NORTH, AND TO THE SOUTH: AND IN THEE AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.

This renewal of the covenant revealed that Jesus would be also the Seed of Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel and his descendants became the Children of Israel. He had twelve sons. Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, was an example of the suffering faithful whose faith produces victory in the end. His life points forward to the time when the sons and heirs shall reign together with Christ.

Actually, there are several points in which Joseph prefigured Christ (see Genesis 37). Here is an outline that will help to understand the similarities:

- A. The meaning of Joseph's name is significant.**
 - 1. Joseph means a person who adds. Jesus was an Adder.**

JOHN 12:24

24 VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT A CORN OF WHEAT FALL INTO THE GROUND AND DIE, IT ABIDETH ALONE: BUT IF IT DIE, IT BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT.

2. Joseph had a second name, Zaphnathpaaneah means *Revealer of Secrets*. Joseph revealed the heart of his father and the hearts of his brethren. So did Jesus. He made the mysteries of God known to us.

LUKE 2:34-35

34 AND SIMEON BLESSED THEM, AND SAID UNTO MARY HIS MOTHER, BEHOLD, THIS CHILD IS SET FOR THE FALL AND RISING AGAIN OF MANY IN ISRAEL; AND FOR A SIGN WHICH SHALL BE SPOKEN AGAINST

35 (YEA, A SWORD SHALL PIERCE THROUGH THY OWN SOUL ALSO,) THAT THE THOUGHTS OF MANY HEARTS MAY BE REVEALED.

- B. Both Joseph and Jesus were shepherds. We are all familiar with the 23rd Psalm.
- C. Both Joseph and Jesus opposed evil. Joseph was truth-speaker. He reported the truth to his father.

JOHN 7:7

7 THE WORLD CANNOT HATE YOU; BUT ME IT HATETH, BECAUSE I TESTIFY OF IT, THAT THE WORKS THEREOF ARE EVIL.

- D. Both held their father's love.
- E. Joseph and Jesus had a coat of many colors. Such a garment was to be worn a mark of distinction and/or noble birth.

2 SAM 13:18

18 AND SHE HAD A GARMENT OF DIVERS COLOURS UPON HER: FOR WITH SUCH ROBES WERE THE KING'S DAUGHTERS THAT WERE VIRGINS APPARELLED. THEN HIS SERVANT BROUGHT HER OUT, AND BOLTED THE DOOR AFTER HER.

The birth of Jesus was of nobility. His baptism was that of distinction, and His dying on the Cross was unique. Both were hated by their brethren.

- F. Joseph and Jesus were disliked because of their words.
- G. Both could look forward to a remarkable future.
- H. Joseph foretold his future's sovereignty. So did Jesus.
- I. Both were sent on a mission by their father.
- J. Both considered the welfare of their brethren.
- K. Joseph was sent forth from Hebron, a place of fellowship and communion. Jesus also.
- L. Joseph came to Shechem meaning *shoulder*. This suggests service and subjection. Jesus experienced a similar situation.
- M. Joseph became a wanderer in the field.

- N. Both sought until they found their brethern.
- O. Both were conspired against.
- P. Both were disbelieved.
- Q. Both were put in a pit.

ZECH 9:11

11 AS FOR THEE ALSO, BY THE BLOOD OF THY COVENANT I HAVE SENT FORTH THY PRISONERS OUT OF THE PIT WHEREIN IS NO WATER.

MATT 12:40

40 FOR AS JONAS WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE WHALE'S BELLY; SO SHALL THE SON OF MAN BE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH.

- R. Both came out of the pit alive.
- S. Both were sold.
- T. Both became servants.
- U. Both prospered as servants.
- V. Their masters were well pleased.
- W. Joseph was made a blessing to others.

- X. Joseph was a goodly person.
- Y. Joseph was sorely tempted, yet sinned not.
- Z. Both were falsely accused.
- AA. Neither attempted self-defense.
- BB. Both were cast into prison.
- CC. Both suffered at the hands of the Gentiles
- DD. Both being innocent, stilled suffered.
- EE. Each won the respect of the Jailor.
- FF. Both were numbered with the transgressors.
- GG. Both were blessings to some and the pronouncers of Judgment for others.
- HH. Both proved that they knew their future.
 - II. Their predictions came true.
- JJ. Each desired to be remembered.
- KK. Each was delivered from their prison by the hand of God.
- LL. Both warned of a coming danger and urged his hearers to make suitable provision to meet it.
- MM. Joseph appeared as a wonderful counsellor. So did Jesus.
- NN. Joseph was exalted and set over all of Egypt. Jesus was exalted and set over everything.
- OO. Joseph was seated on a throne that did not belong to him. Jesus will be seated on David's throne.
- PP. Both were given authority.
- QQ. Each was given a new name.
- RR. Joseph received a bride. Christ will also receive a bride.
- SS. Both began their life's work at age thirty.
- TT. Joseph dispensed bread to a perishing world, making him a savior. Jesus is the Bread of Life.

UU. Joseph had unlimited resources to meet the need of all. So does Jesus.
VV. Joseph made known to his brethren a way of deliverance through substitution.
WW. Joseph made provision for his brothers while they were still in a strange land.
XX. Joseph was made known to his brothers at a second time.
YY. Both were men of compassion.
ZZ. Joseph's brothers went forth to proclaim his glory.
AAA. Joseph made ready his chariot and goes forth to meet Jacob.
BBB. Joseph settled his brothers in a land of their own.

Another one of Jacob's son must be mentioned. Judah was the one responsible for Saving Joseph when his brothers wanted to kill him. It was to Judah that the Messianic promise was given.

GEN 49:1

1 AND JACOB CALLED UNTO HIS SONS, AND SAID, GATHER YOURSELVES TOGETHER, THAT I MAY TELL YOU THAT WHICH SHALL BEFALL YOU IN THE LAST DAYS.

GEN 49:8-10

8 JUDAH, THOU ART HE WHOM THY BRETHREN SHALL PRAISE: THY HAND SHALL BE IN THE NECK OF THINE ENEMIES; THY FATHER'S CHILDREN SHALL BOW DOWN BEFORE THEE.

9 JUDAH IS A LION'S WHELP: FROM THE PREY, MY SON, THOU ART GONE UP: HE STOOPED DOWN, HE COUCHED AS A LION, AND AS AN OLD LION; WHO SHALL ROUSE HIM UP?

10 THE SCEPTRE SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR A LAWGIVER FROM BETWEEN HIS FEET, UNTIL SHILOH COME; AND UNTO HIM SHALL THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE BE.

Christ is the One who shall yet have dominion over Israel and subdue their enemies. The destinies of the tribe of Judah is here contemplated under the figure of a "lion." Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The gradual growth of the tribe of Judah would be like the growth of a lion. The scepter mentioned signifies the tribal-rod or staff of office which belonged to any tribe and was an ensign of authority. Jacob's prophecy intimated that Judah should retain both its tribal distinctness and separate until Shiloh, Peace, the Messiah, had appeared.

As Jacob's prophecy is viewed in total, everything good which he predicted of his sons found its realization in the Lord Jesus.

Let's take a closer look at Jacob's sons and the prophecy given about each of them.

A. Reuben was the firstborn. He had excellency of dignity and power.

B. Simeon and Levi had a curse pronounced on them similar to the curse on Jesus as He hung on the Cross.

GEN 49:3

3 REUBEN, THOU ART MY FIRSTBORN, MY MIGHT, AND THE BEGINNING OF MY STRENGTH, THE EXCELLENCY OF DIGNITY, AND THE EXCELLENCY OF POWER:

GEN 49:5-7

5 SIMEON AND LEVI ARE BRETHREN; INSTRUMENTS OF CRUELTY ARE IN THEIR HABITATIONS.

6 O MY SOUL, COME NOT THOU INTO THEIR SECRET; UNTO THEIR ASSEMBLY, MINE HONOUR BE NOT THOU UNITED: FOR IN THEIR ANGER THEY SLEW A MAN, AND IN THEIR SELFWILL THEY DIGGED DOWN A WALL.

7 CURSED BE THEIR ANGER, FOR IT WAS FIERCE; AND THEIR WRATH, FOR IT WAS CRUEL: I WILL DIVIDE THEM IN JACOB, AND SCATTER THEM IN ISRAEL.

C. The prophecy concerning Simeon and Levi anticipated our Lord's Priesthood. Levi became the priestly Tribe.

D. The prophecy concerning Judah pictures our Lord's Kingship.

GEN 49:8-12

8 JUDAH, THOU ART HE WHOM THY BRETHREN SHALL PRAISE: THY HAND SHALL BE IN THE NECK OF THINE ENEMIES; THY FATHER'S CHILDREN SHALL BOW DOWN BEFORE THEE.

9 JUDAH IS A LION'S WHELP: FROM THE PREY, MY SON, THOU ART GONE UP: HE STOOPED DOWN, HE COUCHED AS A LION, AND AS AN OLD LION; WHO SHALL ROUSE HIM UP?

10 THE SCEPTRE SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR A LAWGIVER FROM BETWEEN HIS FEET, UNTIL SHILOH COME; AND UNTO HIM SHALL THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE BE.

11 BINDING HIS FOAL UNTO THE VINE, AND HIS ASS'S COLT UNTO THE CHOICE VINE; HE WASHED HIS GARMENTS IN WINE, AND HIS CLOTHES IN THE BLOOD OF GRAPES:

12 HIS EYES SHALL BE RED WITH WINE, AND HIS TEETH WHITE WITH MILK.

E. The prophecy concerning Zebulun looks at Christ as the great Refuge and Haven of Rest.

GEN 49:13

13 ZEBULUN SHALL DWELL AT THE HAVEN OF THE SEA; AND HE SHALL BE FOR AN HAVEN OF SHIPS; AND HIS BORDER SHALL BE UNTO ZIDON.

F. The prophecy concerning Issachar prefigures His lowly Service.

GEN 49:14-15

14 ISSACHAR IS A STRONG ASS COUCHING DOWN BETWEEN TWO BURDENS:

15 AND HE SAW THAT REST WAS GOOD, AND THE LAND THAT IT WAS PLEASANT; AND BOWED HIS SHOULDER TO BEAR, AND BECAME A SERVANT UNTO TRIBUTE.

G. The prophecy concerning Dan views Him as the Judge.

GEN 49:16-19

**16 DAN SHALL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE, AS ONE OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.
17 DAN SHALL BE A SERPENT BY THE WAY, AN ADDER IN THE PATH, THAT BITTER THE HORSE HEELS, SO THAT HIS RIDER SHALL FALL BACKWARD.
18 I HAVE WAITED FOR THY SALVATION, O LORD.
19 GAD, A TROOP SHALL OVERCOME HIM: BUT HE SHALL OVERCOME AT THE LAST.**

H. The prophecy concerning Gad announces His triumphant Resurrection.

GEN 49:19

19 GAD, A TROOP SHALL OVERCOME HIM: BUT HE SHALL OVERCOME AT THE LAST.

I. The prophecy concerning Asher looks at Him as the Bread of Life, the One who satisfies the hearts of His own.

GEN 49:20

20 OUT OF ASHER HIS BREAD SHALL BE FAT, AND HE SHALL YIELD ROYAL Dainties.

J. The prophecy concerning Naphtali regards Him as God's perfect Prophet, giving forth goodly words.

GEN 49:21

21 NAPHTALI IS A HIND LET LOOSE: HE GIVETH GOODLY WORDS.

K. The prophecy concerning Joseph forecasts His Millennial reign.

GEN 49:22-26

**22 JOSEPH IS A FRUITFUL BOUGH, EVEN A FRUITFUL BOUGH BY A WELL; WHOSE BRANCHES RUN OVER THE WALL:
23 THE ARCHERS HAVE SORELY GRIEVED HIM, AND SHOT AT HIM, AND HATED HIM:
24 BUT HIS BOW ABODE IN STRENGTH, AND THE ARMS OF HIS HANDS WERE MADE STRONG BY THE HANDS OF THE MIGHTY GOD OF JACOB; (FROM THENCE IS THE SHEPHERD, THE STONE OF ISRAEL:)
25 EVEN BY THE GOD OF THY FATHER, WHO SHALL HELP THEE; AND BY THE ALMIGHTY, WHO SHALL BLESS THEE WITH BLESSINGS OF HEAVEN ABOVE, BLESSINGS OF THE DEEP THAT LIETH UNDER, BLESSINGS OF THE BREASTS, AND OF THE WOMB:
26 THE BLESSINGS OF THY FATHER HAVE PREVAILED ABOVE THE BLESSINGS OF MY PROGENITORS UNTO THE UTMOST BOUND OF THE EVERLASTING HILLS: THEY SHALL BE ON THE HEAD OF JOSEPH, AND ON**

THE CROWN OF THE HEAD OF HIM THAT WAS SEPARATE FROM HIS BRETHREN.

L. The prophecy concerning Benjamin depicts Him as the terrible Warri

GEN 49:27

27 BENJAMIN SHALL RAVIN AS A WOLF: IN THE MORNING HE SHALL DEVOUR THE PREY, AND AT NIGHT HE SHALL DIVIDE THE SPOIL.

In some way all of these sons would depict the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Overall the Children of Israel had a double task. They were to be a nation which would be the receiver of the Divine revelation and the lodging-place for the World-Redeemer. This was the task that God gave to the Jewish people. Jesus came as a Jew. Israel was to prepare the way among the nations of the world, and, as God's witness and missionary, be the channel to the nations of the revelation of salvation, so as to prepare for the evangelization of the world. Israel was to be God's "firstborn" and will before the end, become the "sons" of God. As you know, Israel did not carry out this calling on them. As a side note, we, as Christians, are to evangelize the world.

EXOD 4:22

22 AND THOU SHALT SAY UNTO PHARAOH, THUS SAITH THE LORD, ISRAEL IS MY SON, EVEN MY FIRSTBORN:

PS 87:4-6

4 I WILL MAKE MENTION OF RAHAB AND BABYLON TO THEM THAT KNOW ME: BEHOLD PHILISTIA, AND TYRE, WITH ETHIOPIA; THIS MAN WAS BORN THERE.

5 AND OF ZION IT SHALL BE SAID, THIS AND THAT MAN WAS BORN IN HER: AND THE HIGHEST HIMSELF SHALL ESTABLISH HER.

6 THE LORD SHALL COUNT, WHEN HE WRITETH UP THE PEOPLE, THAT THIS MAN WAS BORN THERE. SELAH.

ISA 25:6-8

6 AND IN THIS MOUNTAIN SHALL THE LORD OF HOSTS MAKE UNTO ALL PEOPLE A FEAST OF FAT THINGS, A FEAST OF WINES ON THE LEES, OF FAT THINGS FULL OF MARROW, OF WINES ON THE LEES WELL REFINED.

7 AND HE WILL DESTROY IN THIS MOUNTAIN THE FACE OF THE COVERING CAST OVER ALL PEOPLE, AND THE VAIL THAT IS SPREAD OVER ALL NATIONS.

8 HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH IN VICTORY; AND THE LORD GOD WILL WIPE AWAY TEARS FROM OFF ALL FACES; AND THE REBUKE OF HIS PEOPLE SHALL HE TAKE AWAY FROM OFF ALL THE EARTH: FOR THE LORD HATH SPOKEN IT.

ISA 19:25

25 WHOM THE LORD OF HOSTS SHALL BLESS, SAYING, BLESSED BE EGYPT MY PEOPLE, AND ASSYRIA THE WORK OF MY HANDS, AND ISRAEL MINE INHERITANCE.

This double task would require Israel to remain separate from the world and yet be wide spread over the earth.