

## Last Will and Testament > Genesis 49:1-27

**49:1-7** *A curse.* What Jacob (Israel) offers to his oldest sons is not what they would have expected. Reuben, because of his sin, will not receive the inheritance normally due the firstborn son. Simeon and Levi, on account of their excessive violence, will also be passed over. There truly are consequences for sin!

**49:8-12** *A blessing.* There is forgiveness for sin also. Judah shall end up receiving the part of the firstborn's blessing related to leading the family and, in time, the nation of Israel and God's people. Forgiveness really does change a person.

**49:13-21** *A mixed bag.* While the blessings given to a number of the other brothers seem random, they ultimately do relate in one fashion or another to their eventual destinies. In this, we see God's sovereignty on display, and that's a good thing!

**49:22-27** *A reckoning.* Though Benjamin gets little mention, Joseph is counted "blessed" in every way imaginable. There is a reckoning, and Joseph receives blessing all out of proportion with his placement in the family tree.

**Context:** These verses form the second part of Jacob's blessing of his children.

**Argument:** Our actions do matter, but God's plans matter even more.

**Gospel:** The reality of sin, the need for forgiveness, the transformation of the Gospel – these are the things that Christ offers; this inheritance is given to every Christian.

**Applications:** Where do you stand in Christ's "will"? Who around you needs to know that they can be a part, too?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

---