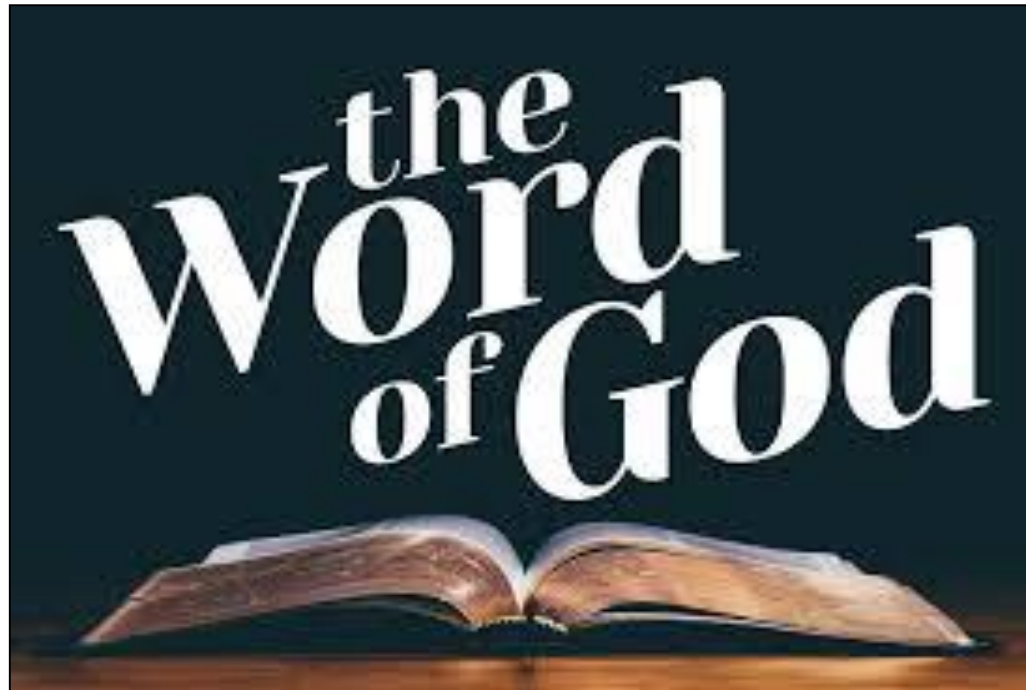


Then Jacob called for his sons and said.. "Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you **in days to come**. Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel."

## **PROPHETIC POETRY**



One of the greatest proofs of the Bible being the Word of God is fulfilled prophecy



**Joshua** then cast lots for them in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their tribal divisions. Joshua 18:10



Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, the first sign of my strength, excelling in honour, excelling in power. Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel, for you went up onto your father`s bed, onto my couch and defiled it.



**The consequences of sin**

**DISPLACED**

**Does this sound like a blessing to you ?**

Simeon and Levi are **brothers**-- their swords are weapons of violence. Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed **men** in their anger and hamstringed **oxen** as they pleased. Cursed be **their anger**, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel ! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel.

**The Terrible DUO - cruel to men and animals**

**DISPERSED**



**Does this sound like a blessing to you ?**

Simeon was absorbed into Judah

Levi was given the priesthood – but no land inheritance



# Judah

What's coming next ?



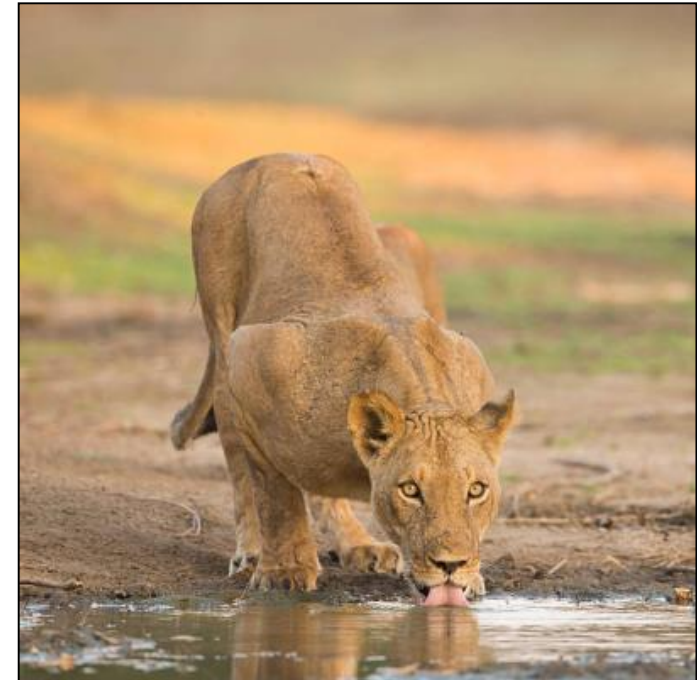
Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father`s sons will bow down to you

Leadership  
given to Judah  
which came  
to a high point  
under David



These prophecies relate not only to Jacob's sons  
but also to their tribal descendants

You are a lion`s cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son.  
Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness--who dares to  
rouse him?



**A warrior tribe !**



- 1, The sceptre will not depart from Judah,
- 2, nor the ruler`s staff from between his feet, until he (*Shiloh*) comes to whom it belongs
- 3, and the obedience of the nations is his.



The Promised Messiah will be from the tribe of Judah and bring blessing to the whole world.

He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch;  
he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of  
grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than  
milk.  
*(note the poetic parallels)*



Judah's area was suitable for vine and flocks.

Zebulun will live by the seashore and become a haven for ships; his border will extend toward Sidon.

His area was linked with Asher along the northern trade route to the coast.



Issachar is a strong donkey lying down between two saddlebags. When he sees how good is his resting place and how pleasant is his land, he will bend his shoulder to the burden and submit to forced labour.



This name is not an insult !

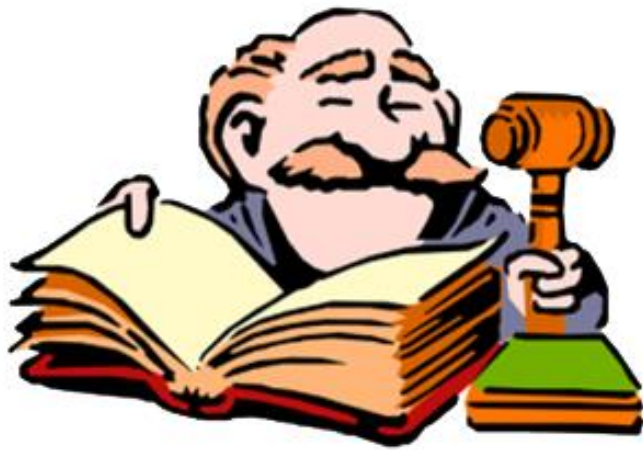


The danger of an easy life



But Note :-  
1 Chronicles 12:32

Dan will provide justice for his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan will be a serpent by the roadside, a viper along the path, that bites the horse`s heels so that its rider tumbles backward



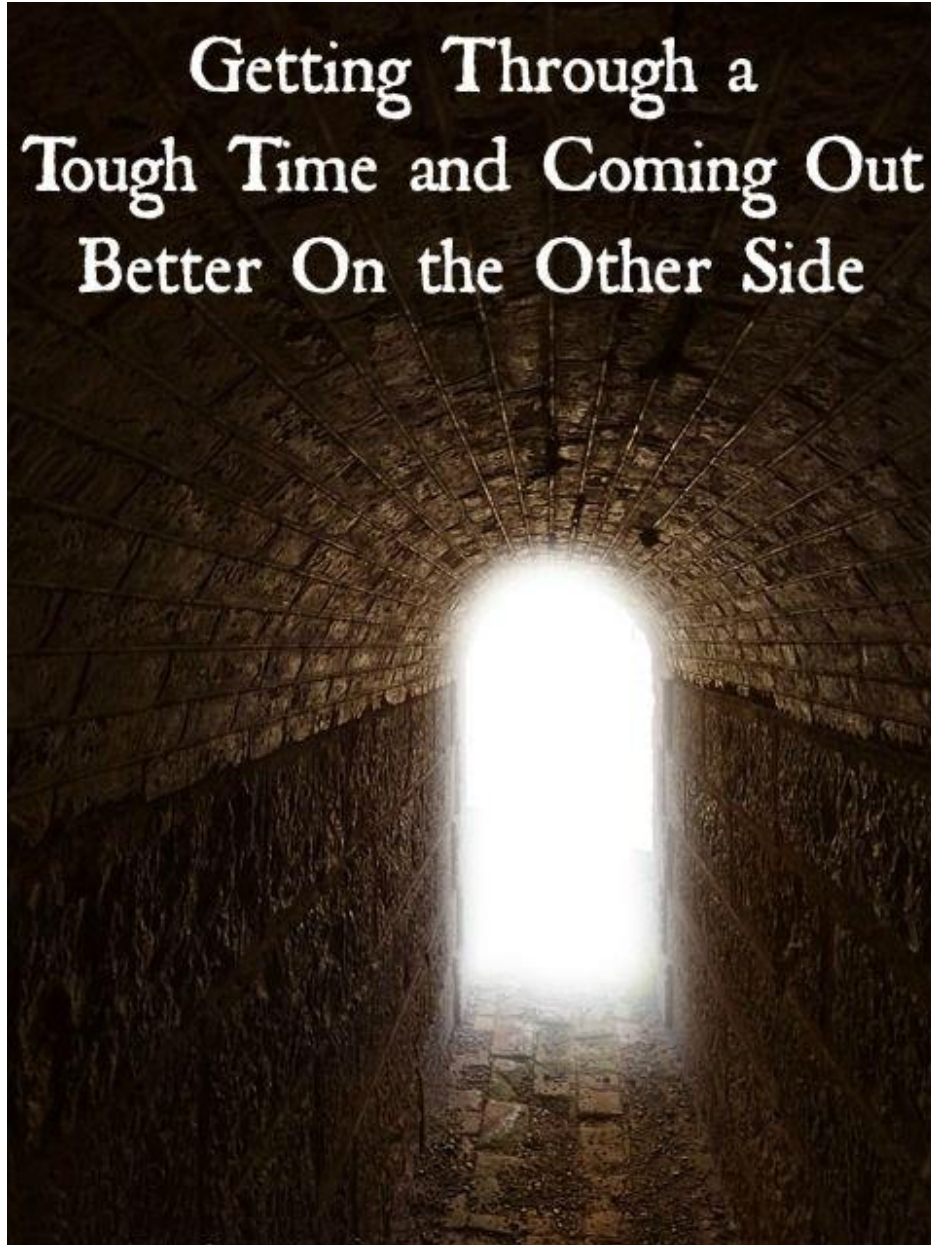
Cf. Samson



The maid-servant's son has equal standing with the rest

I look for your deliverance, O LORD.

Getting Through a  
Tough Time and Coming Out  
Better On the Other Side



Gad will be attacked by a band of raiders,  
but he will attack them at their heels.

The original language sounds like  
“a press presses him,  
but he presses the heel” .

Some Gadites joined David at  
the stronghold in the wilderness,  
mighty men of valour, men  
trained for battle, who could  
handle shield and spear, whose  
faces were like the faces of  
lions, and were as swift as  
gazelles on the mountains:  
1 Chronicles 12:8



Asher`s food will be rich; he will provide delicacies fit for a king.



One of the most fertile parts of Canaan, abounding in wheat and oil, with which Solomon supplied the household of king Hiram (cf. 1Kings 5:11).



Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns(*sayings*).



... put *your* hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1Timothy 6:17

Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall.



The 'first-born' double portion given to Joseph

With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong .....



Eg. His brothers, Potiphar etc.  
as well as future battles to be won

because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, because of your father`s God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of (1) the heavens above, blessings of (2) the deep that lies below, blessings of (3) the breast and womb.



It is God  
who blesses



Your father`s blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.



An abundance of blessing

Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey, in the evening he divides the plunder.



Saul, Jonathan, Mordechai (Esther's uncle), and Paul were from the tribe of Benjamin

Jacob spoke of these things hundreds of years before they were fulfilled – God gave him the revelation !



All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, **giving each the blessing** appropriate to him.

Sin exposed and removed leads to blessing.  
God's purposes for each one is special  
ALL TWELVE sons were blessed



And YOU TOO can be included



And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13