-- Corporate Responsibility
-- Corporate Perpetuity

> "Their families would all be there in the Promised Land, but in different capacities…As is often the case, the activities and nature of the parents will affect the destinies of the descendants. It was true for Adam and Eve, and it was true for the sons of Jacob." (Allen P. Ross, p. 709)

How would these blessings have functioned in "the twelve tribes of Israel"?

As a personal reminder…

> I had nothing to do with how I came into this world, and thus into this family; yet, I am responsible for how I conduct my life, and thus subject to my consequences.

As a corporate encouragement…

> Prior to The Exodus, we would be encouraged to hope for future generations; after The Exodus, we would be encouraged to remember God's promises and man's responsibility.

The Responsibility of Blessing (vv. 29-33)

"Then he commanded them and said to them, 'I am to be gathered to my people…'" (v. 29)

…bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron…

…there they buried Abraham and Sarah…

> ESV **Hebrews 11:13** These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

Review

CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:3 | The Seven Days of Creation
Genesis 2:4-25 | Man and Woman in the Garden

CORRUPTION

Genesis 3:1-24 | The Fall of Man
Genesis 4:1-5:32 | The Progress of Sin
Genesis 6:1-8:22 | The Judgment of God
Genesis 9:1-11:32 | The Necessity of Covenant

COVENANT

Genesis 12:1-25:18 | Abraham
Genesis 25:19-37:1 | Isaac
Genesis 37:2-50:26 | Jacob

CREATION (1:1-2:25) **> CORRUPTION** (3:1-11:32) **> COVENANT** (12:1-50:26)

Covenant—Jacob, pt. 13 **Genesis 49:1-33**

Outline

49:1-33 Jacob, in preparing to die (47:27-49:33), gathers all of his twelve sons together and blesses each of them.

49:1-2 Jacob gathers all of his twelve sons and calls them to listen to him.

49:3-27 Jacob blesses each of his twelve sons

49:28-33 Jacob commands all of his twelve sons regarding his burial.

Blessing

The Function of Blessing

The Content of Blessing

The Significance of Blessing

The Responsibility of Blessing

> Jacob believed that the promises of God and their fulfillment endured beyond his own life, into subsequent generations.
>
> Jacob believed that his sons were both unconditional recipients of God's promises and responsible for the consequences of their conduct.

Jacob blesses his sons before he dies, now moving on to all of his twelve sons, and demonstrates his confident faith in God who keeps His word.

Explanation

The Function of Blessing

- The Concept in Genesis

  Defined = the bestowal of good

  First Uses = Gen 1:22, 28; 2:3

  Opposite = curse (Gen 3:14, 17; 4:11)

  Significant Use = Gen 12

  ESV **Genesis 12:1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will **bless** you and make your name great, so that you will be a **blessing**. 3 I will **bless** those who **bless** you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be **blessed**."

- The Concept in Genesis 48-49

  Jacob blesses others (e.g. 47:7, 10; 48:9, 15, 20; 49:28)

  -- He acknowledged God as the ultimate source of the blessing.
  -- He utilized some form of ceremonial presence.
  -- He functioned as a means of perpetuating certain promises to his family.
  -- He asked God to bring about certain good on his family.

  Jacob blesses his twelve sons (Gen 49:1-28)

  -- They were to be physically present, pay close attention, take seriously what he was about to say, and recognize their unity as a family-nation (vv. 1-2).

  -- They were going to hear from their father what would happen to each of them in the future (as sons-turned-tribes, v. 1).

  -- They were blessed by their father, each one receiving a blessing (or even antiblessing) fitting to each one (v. 28).

  -- They were blessed in line with the unconditionality of God's promise(s), the consequences of their conduct, the purposes and power of God, and the individual and corporate nature of their identity.

The Content of Blessing (vv. 3-28)

- All four lists of the twelve sons in Genesis are ordered differently (e.g. 29:31-30:24 [emphasis on birth order]; 35:22b-26 [emphasis on Rachel]; 46:8-27 [emphasis on family relationship]; 49:1-28 [emphasis on inheritance preeminence]).

- This list is ordered to emphasize the significance of Judah and Joseph, especially the inheritance (rights)-related consequences of the oldest three sons, and the ability of God.

  Reuben (firstborn of Leah, vv. 3-4)

  Simeon and **Levi** (second and thirdborn of Leah, vv. 5-7)

  Judah (fourthborn of Leah, vv. 8-12)

  Zebulun (sixthborn of Leah, v. 13)

  Issachar (fifthborn of Leah, vv. 14-15)

  Dan (firstborn of Bilhah, Rachel's servant, vv. 16-18)

  ESV **Genesis 49:18** I wait for your salvation, O LORD.

  Gad (firstborn of Zilpah, Leah's servant, v. 19)

  Asher (secondborn of Zilpah, Leah's servant, v. 20)

  Naphtali (secondborn of Bilhah, Rachel's servant, 21)

  Joseph (firstborn of Rachel, vv. 22-26)

  Benjamin (secondborn of Rachel, v. 27)

The Significance of Blessing

- A Focus on Interrelated Realities

  -- Consequences—Positive and Negative
  -- Preeminent Inheritors—Judah and Joseph
  -- Tribal Conditions—Fruitful and Conflict
  -- Ultimate Dependence—God's provision and God's salvation

- A Focus on Corporate Realities

  -- Corporate Identity
  -- Corporate Charity