

## THE BROCHOS OF YAAKOV : בְּרָכוֹת יַעֲקֹב

*Berayshis, Chapter 49*

בראשית, מ"ט

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Yaakov called for his sons<br>and he said:<br>"Gather yourselves together<br>and I will tell you<br>what will happen to you<br>in the end of days.  | א | וַיִּקְרָא יַעֲקֹב אֶל בְּנָיו<br>וַיֹּאמֶר<br>הֲאִסְפוּ<br>וְאֶגִּידָה לָכֶם<br>אֵת אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָא אֶתְכֶם<br>בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים :    |
| 2 | "Keep together always<br>and listen, you sons of Yaakov;<br>and listen to the teachings<br>of Yisroel your father.  | ב | הִקְבְּצוּ<br>וּשְׁמְעוּ בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב<br>וּשְׁמְעוּ אֶל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲבִיכֶם :   |
| 3 | "Reuven!<br>You are my firstborn,<br>My might and the first of my strength.<br>You should have had the superiority<br>of the dignity of the priesthood;<br>You should have had<br>the superiority of kingship.  | ג | רְאוּבֵן<br>בְּכֹרִי אַתָּה<br>כַּחַי וְרֵאשִׁית אוֹנִי<br>יִתֵּר שְׂאֵת<br>וַיִּתֵּר עָז :   |
| 4 | "But because of your impetuosity<br>which is like running waters<br>You cannot be the superior and leader:<br>You showed this impetuosity<br>when you presumed to disturb<br>Your father's place of repose:<br>Then you unthinkingly desecrated my couch<br>Above which hovered the Shechinoh." | ד | פָּחוּז בְּמַיִם<br>אֵל תֹּתֵר<br>כִּי עָלִיתָ<br>מִשְׁכְּבֵי אָבִיךָ<br>אֲזַ חִלְלָתָ יְצוּעֵי<br>עָלָה :                                |
| 5 | "Shi'mon and Levi are close brothers<br>But their weapons of violence they usurped —<br>they are not truly theirs!  | ה | שְׁמֵעוֹן וְלֵוִי אֲחִים<br>כְּלֵי חַמָּס מְכַרְתִּיהֶם :   |
| 6 | "In their councils<br>Let not my spirit come;<br>When they gather,<br>May I not be included:<br>For in the heat of their rage<br>They would kill even innocent men,<br>And in their cool temper<br>They would destroy even the dumb beast.  | ו | בְּסֻדָּם<br>אֵל תְּבֹא נַפְשִׁי<br>בְּקִהְלָם<br>אֵל תִּחַד כְּבֹדִי<br>כִּי בְאַפָּם<br>הָרְגוּ אִישׁ<br>וּבְרַצְנָם עִקְרוּ<br>שׂוֹר : |

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- 7 “Cursed is their wrath — even if be justified —  
 “For it is too fierce;  
 “And their fury  
 “For it is cruelly hard!  
 “I must disperse them among the People of Yaakov,  
 that they shall not govern,  
 “And I must scatter them throughout the Nation of Yisroel  
 that they shall not rule.”
- אָרוּר אָפֶס  
 כִּי עָז  
 וְעִבְרָתָם  
 כִּי קָשָׁתָהּ  
 אֲחַלְקֵם בְּיַעֲקֹב  
 וְאֶפְיָצֵם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל :
- 8 “But Yehudah!  
 “You are the one to whom your brothers  
 shall pay homage!  
 “Your hand shall be upon the neck of your enemies,  
 “And to you shall your father’s sons bow down.
- יְהוּדָה  
 אַתָּה יוֹדוּךָ אֲחֵיךָ  
 יָדְךָ בְּעֵרֶף אֵיבֶיךָ  
 יִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לְךָ בְּנֵי אָבִיךָ :
- 9 “A noble young lion is Yehudah;  
 “You, my son, are above cruelly tearing the prey;  
 “Sedately kneeling down,  
 “Protectively crouching down,  
 “As the lion and the lioness —  
 “Who would dare to rouse him?
- גֹּוֹר אַרְיֵה יְהוּדָה  
 מִטָּרֵף בְּנֵי עֲלִית  
 פָּרַע  
 רָבֵץ  
 פְּאַרְיָה וּכְלָבִיא  
 מִי יִקְיַמְנוּ :
- 10 “Therefore, the royal sceptre  
 shall not depart from Yehudah,  
 “Not the Torah judicature;  
 “From him shall descend kings and Torah princes  
 at whose feet will sit the Torah scholars:  
 “Right until the coming of Moshiach  
 and universal peace,  
 “When the obedience of Nations will be his.
- לֹא יִסּוּר שֶׁבֶט מִיְהוּדָה  
 וּמַחְקֵק  
 מִבֵּין רְגָלָיו  
 עַד כִּי יָבֹא שִׁילָה  
 וְלוֹ יִקְהַת עַמִּים :
- 11 “He binds his young ass  
 to load it up with the produce of the vine,  
 “And for the fruit of one choice vine-branch,  
 his ass’s colt — so fruitful will be his land!  
 “His royal robes coloured purple,  
 as if washed in wine,  
 “His mantle red,  
 as if rinsed in the blood of grapes.
- אֶסְרֵי לֶגֶפֶן עִירָה  
 וּלְשֹׁרֶקָה בְּנֵי אֶתְנֹו  
 כַּבֵּס בַּיַּיִן לְבָשׁוּ  
 וּבָדָם עֲנָבִים סוֹרֵתָהּ :
- 12 “The watching hills of his land  
 “Shall be red with vineyards  
 “And his land will glisten white like milk  
 with cornfields and flocks of sheep.”
- חֲכָלֵילֵי עֵינִים  
 מַיִן  
 וּלְבָן שְׁנִים מִחֶלֶב :

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- 13 “Zevullun will dwell at the shore of the seas  
“And his coastline shall be a haven for ships  
— and he shall enjoy their commerce —  
“With his border extending up to Tziddon.”
- 14 “Yissochor is sturdy like a strong-boned ass  
“Crouching among the heavy burdens.
- 15 “He perceives that rest is good,  
“And that the homeland is more pleasant  
than distant undertakings:  
“He inclines his shoulder to take the burdens  
of Torah-study, to guide the People  
“And, as their servant, they shall be indebted to him.”
- 16 “Don shall stand up for the rights of his People  
“As courageously as the best of the Tribes of Yisroel.
- 17 “For, when he must, Don shall fight for them  
with the cunning of the snake on the highway,  
“And like a hissing viper on the path  
shall he defend the retreating troop  
“It bites the horse’s heels  
“So that its rider falls backward.
- 18 “And in such troubled times —  
for Your salvation, HaShem, I do hope!”
- 19 “But when the enemy’s troops band-up against Gad  
“Then he raids them successfully with his troops  
and he is directly upon their heels.”
- 20 “From the land of Osher comes the choicest foods  
“And he will provide the Nation  
with delicacies fit for kings.”
- 21 “Naftoli is as fleet as the gazelle over the wide plains  
to carry out what is entrusted to him:  
“He gives forth with beautiful eloquence  
the teachings of the Torah for the benefit of all his People.”
- 22 “A noble, distinguished son is Yosef,  
“As a beautiful plant flourishing at the wellspring,  
“Its branches running over the wall.
- 23 “Even though some people embittered his life  
“And harboured hatred for him —  
“Even though, in their hatred, they shot their tongues at him  
like those that shoot arrows —
- ג זבולן לחוף ימים ישבן  
והוא לחוף אניית  
וירכתו על צידו :
- ד יששכר חמור גרם  
רבץ בין המשפתיים :
- ט וירא מנחה פי טוב  
ואת הארץ פי נעמה  
ויט שכמו לסבל  
ויהי למס עבד :
- טו דן ידין עמו  
כאחד שבטי ישראל :
- ז יהי דן נחש עלי דרך  
שפיפן עלי ארץ  
הנשף עקבי סוס  
ויפל רכבו אחור :
- ח לישועתך קויתי יי :
- ט גד גדוד יגודנו  
והוא יגד עקב :
- כ מאשר שמנה לחמו  
והוא יתן מעדני מלך :
- כא נפתלי אילה שלחה  
הנתן אמרי שפר :
- כב בן פרת יוסף  
בן פרת עלי עין  
בנות צעדה עלי שור :
- כג וימררהו ורבו  
וישטמהו  
בעלי חצים :

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- 24 “Yet the aim of his bow was true, and never deflected,  
 “And, when his arms and hands were later bedecked with golden  
 bracelets and rings of office, he sustained them all,  
 “Readily acknowledging that his power  
 comes from the Mighty G-d of Yaakov;  
 “And from there, Mitzrayyim,  
 “He was the shepherd and builder —  
 “Together with their father Yisroel —  
 of the whole of his People.
- 25 “All this was indeed from your father’s G-d —  
 and may He always help you!  
 “From G-d, the Sufficient Provider —  
 and may He Himself bless you!  
 “With the blessings of the heavens above  
 “With the blessings of the waters that lie in the depths  
 “With the blessings of healthy parents  
 and vigorous children.
- 26 “May these, your father’s blessings,  
 “Be added to the blessings of my forefathers —  
 “For ever and ever —  
 until the boundaries of space and time!  
 “May they come upon the head of Yosef —  
 “Upon the crowned head of he who was isolated  
 — but is the prince among his brethren.”
- 27 “Binyomin, though the youngest of the brothers,  
 “Like a wolf shall he destroy the enemy  
 and provide for the Nation:  
 “At morning,  
 “On his *Mizbayach* the sacred fire will consume  
 the *Korbannos* of atonement  
 “And towards evening, too,  
 “He will share with his People  
 the benefits of the expiatory *Korbannos*.”
- 28 All these are the Tribes of Yisroel,  
 The Twelve Tribes who shall inherit the Land together,  
 and thus  
 did their father speak sternly to some of them.  
 Nevertheless, he blessed each of them individually:  
 He blessed each one  
 according to his special characteristics.  
 And in each one’s particular blessing  
 was intended the benefit of all of them.
- כד ותָּשֵׁב בְּאִיתָן קִשְׁתּוֹ  
 וַיְפֹזֵז זְרָעֵי יָדָיו  
 מִיַּדֵּי אֲבִיר יַעֲקֹב  
 מִשָּׁם  
 רָעָה אֲבֵן  
 יִשְׂרָאֵל :
- כה מֵאֵל אָבִיךָ וַיַּעֲזֹרְךָ  
 וְאֵת שְׂדֵי וַיְבָרְכֶךָ  
 בְּרִכַּת שָׁמַיִם מֵעַל  
 בְּרִכַּת תְּהוֹם רִבְעַת תַּחַת  
 בְּרִכַּת שְׂדֵיִם וְרַחֵם :
- כו בְּרִכַּת אָבִיךָ  
 גָּבְרוּ עַל בְּרִכַּת הוֹרֵי  
 עַד תַּאֲוֹת גְּבַעַת עוֹלָם  
 תִּהְיֶינָה לְרֹאשׁ יוֹסֵף  
 וְלִקְדָּקֵד נְזִיר אֲחֵיו :
- כז בְּנִימִין  
 זֶאֱב יִטְרֹף  
 בְּבֹקֶר  
 יֵאָכֵל עַד  
 וְלָעֶרֶב  
 יִחַלֵּק שָׁלָל :
- כח כָּל אֱלֹהֵי שְׁבֹטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
 שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר  
 וְזֹאת  
 אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר לָהֶם אֲבִיהֶם  
 וַיְבָרֶךְ אוֹתָם  
 אִישׁ  
 אֲשֶׁר כְּבִרְכָתוֹ  
 בְּרֵךְ אוֹתָם :