

VAY’CHI (He lived)

12.18.21

Opening Scripture Reading/Prayer

Ezekiel 20:20

*I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and **keep my SABBATHS holy**; and they shall be a **SIGN between me and you**, that ye may now that I am the LORD your God.*

Exodus 31:12-17 - The Sabbath

¹² And the LORD said to Moses, ¹³ “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. ¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. ¹⁶ Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”

Leviticus 19:1-4

The LORD Is Holy

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, **You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.** ³ Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and **you shall keep my Sabbaths**: I am the LORD your God. ⁴ Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God.

Isaiah 56:1-8 - Salvation for Foreigners

1 Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. 2 Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” 3 Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.” 4 For thus says the LORD: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, 5 I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. 6 “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, **everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer**; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” 8 The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

Isaiah 58:13-14

“If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; 14 then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 66:22-23

“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. 23 From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.

Matthew 12:8

“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Colossians 2:16-17 (KJV)

“Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths which are a shadow of what is to come **but** the Body of the Messiah.”

Parshah – VAY’CHI (He lived)

Genesis 47:28–50:26; 1 Kings 2:1–12; John 10:1–21

“A True Follower of God”

Last Week’s Reading Review: VAYIGASH (He approached)

- Joseph continued to test his brothers to see if they were truly different people from the ones who threw him into a pit and sold him into slavery
- After Judah offered to take the place of Benjamin as a slave, Joseph became convinced of their repentance and finally revealed his identity to them
- Joseph then brings down his father, Jacob, to dwell in the “fat of the land” of Egypt, where God still promises to make them into a great nation

THIS WEEK:

A True Follower of God

1 Kings 2:2-3

Be strong, and show yourself a man (a true follower of God),³ and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn

- I. Be strong, and a true follower of God ... by acknowledging that although you are in this world (exile), that you are not of this world (exile)***

Nearing end of his life, Jacob requested of Joseph to swear an oath that he would bury him in the cave of Machpelah (where Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah were buried), instead of in Egypt.

Genesis 47:28-31

²⁸ *And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.*

²⁹ *And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not*

bury me in Egypt,³⁰ but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place.” He answered, “I will do as you have said.”³¹ And he said, “Swear to me”; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

II. Be strong, and a true follower of God ... by acknowledging the promises of God over your life, throughout your entire life

Genesis 48 – Jacob Blesses Joseph’s Sons

³ And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,⁴ and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’⁵ And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.

Firstborn always received a double portion; but here, Jacob gives a double-portion to Joseph by adopting his two sons. This effectively removed the firstborn status from Reuben, as displayed further in Genesis 49:3-4.

III. Be strong, and a true follower of God ... by acknowledging God in all your ways, that He may be the One who directs your path, not leaning on your own understanding, that others may also see the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Genesis 48:8-22

⁸ When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, “Who are these?”⁹ Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God has given me here.” And he said, “Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.”¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also.”¹² Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said,

“The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,
¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys;
and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.”¹⁹ But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.”²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying,

“By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying,
‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’”

Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers.²² Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope (one portion of the land) that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow.”

Notice that Jacob gives firstborn double-portion inheritance to the second-born Ephraim instead of Manasseh (very similar to his own story).

Moreover, Joseph given an extra portion in the Promised Land – Jacob’s hometown area of Shechem near Hebron, where Joseph’s bones were eventually buried.
(see Joshua 24:32 – *And Joseph’s bones ... they buried in Shechem*).

IV. *Be strong, and a true follower of God ... by acknowledging that in your hardships and afflictions, God will make you forget them all and make you fruitful*

Jacob blessed his two grandsons with the following ending words: "With you, Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh.'"

Genesis 41:50-52

⁵⁰ Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. ⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." ⁵² The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Manasseh: In the land of hardship and affliction, God has made me forget my affliction
... and ...

Ephraim: In the land of my hardship and affliction, God has made me fruitful

“May God make YOU like Ephraim and Manasseh” – forgetful of your affliction and fruitful despite it!

Psalm 34:19-22

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
²⁰ He keeps all his bones;
not one of them is broken.
²¹ Affliction will slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
²² The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalm 119:92

⁹² If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.

Isaiah 30:20-22

²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²² Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

Isaiah 63:8-9

⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”

And he became their Savior.

⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 4:23

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

V. Be strong, and a true follower of God ... by receiving the words the Lord speaks into and over us, whether blessing or correction

Genesis 49:1-27

Then Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come (last days – KJV – acharit hayamim). ² “Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

³ “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. ⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father’s bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch!

- Since Reuben slept with Jacob’s concubine, Zilpah, his mother’s maid and the mother of Reuben’s half-brothers, Jacob deprives Reuben of his firstborn, double-portion inheritance. Because of his recklessness, he will NOT be the preeminent tribe.

Genesis 49:5-7

⁵ “Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. ⁶ Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen. ⁷ Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

- These two straight-up massacre an entire city (Shechem) to take revenge for their sister (Genesis 34:25-31). Jacob curses their anger and says they will be scattered in the new nation. This is evidenced by Simeon being absorbed into the land designated to the tribe of Judah.
- The Levites are given no land of their own, as they are scattered throughout the Promised Land amongst all the tribes (but there is a silver lining to their story – due to their refusal to engage in worship of the golden calf at Mt. Sinai and repentance, the Lord grants them the inheritance of the priesthood)!

Genesis 49:8-12

⁸ “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

- Like a lion, he'll defeat his enemies, rule the people, and much more
- Will be praised by all Israel
- Kings of Israel will come from him, as well as Shiloh – the Messiah
- (See more below)

Genesis 49:13

¹³ “Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.

- Live by the sea; run successful ports

Genesis 49:14-15

¹⁴ “Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds. ¹⁵ He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.

- Like a strong donkey, comfortable submitting to forced labor

Genesis 49:16-18

¹⁶ “Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁷ Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward. ¹⁸ I wait for your salvation, O LORD.

- Like a serpent, he'll judge the other tribes, but also be an obstacle to others (see explanation below)

Genesis 49:19

¹⁹ “Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels.

- Raiders will raid him; he'll raid them right back

Genesis 49:20

²⁰ “Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.

- He'll enjoy and produce rich food

Genesis 49:21

²¹ “Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.

- Like a doe, he makes beautiful words

Genesis 49:22-26

²² “Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. ²³ The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, ²⁴ yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), ²⁵ by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. ²⁶ The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

- Like a fruitful bough, he gets all the uber blessings
- The birthright goes to him, but a mysterious scepter goes to Judah

Genesis 49:27

²⁷ “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil.”

- Like a wolf, he eats in the morning and divides the spoil at evening

Regarding Dan

Notice several things about the prophecy over Dan. First, Jacob prophesied that Dan would judge Israel. This part of the blessing was fulfilled by Samson who judged Israel for twenty years. We find this judgement and confirmation that he led Israel in Judges 15:16, 20 as well as Judges 16:31. **Second, he claimed that Dan would become idolatrous and would become like the serpent in the Garden of Eden in that he would not be faithful to God.** When the Israelites finally entered the Promised Land, the tribe of Dan was seventh in line to select their territory (Joshua 19:40-51). However, they were not able to occupy their selected territory due to a lack of faith and later moved north (Judges 18:1-31). As they moved north, the Danites stole **Micah’s** idols and Micah’s priest agreed to be the priest for the tribe.

An Israelite whose familiar story is preserved in the 17th and 18th chapters of Judges. Micah is evidently a devout believer in Jehovah, and yet so completely ignorant is he of the law of Jehovah that the mode which he adopts of honoring him is to make a molten and graven image, teraphim or images of domestic gods, and to set up an unauthorized priesthood, first in his own family, (Judges 17:5) and then in the person of a Levite not of the priestly line. ver. (Judges 17:12) A body of 600 Danites break in upon and steal his idols from him.

<https://biblehub.com/topical/m/micah.htm>

Judges 18:14-19

“Then the five men who had spied out the land of Laish said to their fellow Danites, “Do you know that one of these houses has an ephod, some household gods and an image overlaid with silver? Now you know what to do.” So they turned in there and went to the house of the young Levite at Micah’s place and greeted him. The six hundred Danites, armed for battle, stood at the entrance of the gate. The five men who had spied out the land went inside and took the idol, the ephod and the household gods while the priest and the six hundred armed men stood at the entrance of the gate. When the five men went into Micah’s house and took the idol, the ephod and the household gods, the priest said to them, “What are you doing?” They answered him, “Be quiet! Don’t say a word. Come with us, and be our father and priest. Isn’t it better that you serve a tribe and clan in Israel as priest rather than just one man’s household?”

Jacob’s prophesy, again, proves true as we see in

Judges 18:30

There the Danites set up for themselves the idol, and Jonathan son of Gershom, the son of Moses, and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan until the time of the captivity of the land.

The Danites continued this idolatry until the Assyrian Empire took them captive in 722 B.C.

1 Kings 12:28-30

After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.

2 Kings 10:29

However, he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit—the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan.

Why is The Tribe of Dan Absent From Revelations?

In the book of Revelation, when the Messiah tells the apostle John that he will choose 144,000 special servants from the twelve tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:1-8), and chooses 12,000 out of each tribe, it is interesting to note that he chooses double from the Tribe of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh’s portion). We may find at least some of the answer in the book of Judges. We know that they attacked Laish and turned to idolatry. Throughout the centuries, they continued to engage in idolatry and were slow to repent of their sins. So, the tribe is missing from the list of tribes in Revelation 7:4-8 and will not be part of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses in the tribulation period. An interesting note, however, is that they appear again in Ezekiel 48:1-2, 32.

Ezekiel 48:1-2

These are the tribes, listed by name: At the northern frontier, Dan will have one portion; it will follow the Hethlon road to Lebo Hamath; Hazar Enan and the northern border of Damascus next to Hamath will be part of its border from the east side to the west side. Asher will have one portion; it will border the territory of Dan from east to west.

Ezekiel 48:32

On the east side, which is 4,500 cubits long, will be three gates: the gate of Joseph, the gate of Benjamin and the gate of Dan.

These scriptures do show that the tribe of Dan will have land designated for them during the millennial kingdom. They will continue to reject God in the tribulation but they will turn to God at the end of the millennial kingdom because our God will draw them to Christ.

Interesting Facts about the Tribe of Dan:

- Their tribe symbols are the scales and serpent/snake (from Jacob’s blessing)
- Descendants of the tribe of Dan are said to be found in modern day Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Northern England and Denmark, as well as the United States

The Picture of the Anti-Christ

Revelation 7:4-8

4 And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: 5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, 6 12,000 from the

tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, 7 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, 8 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

Note: Dan is missing from this list, and Joseph's family is mentioned twice, a double portion, both Joseph and his son Manasseh. Why is this?

Genesis 49:1

Then Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.'

Genesis 49:16-17

Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.

Note: Dan would cause the people of God to Fall Away:

Matthew 24:9-14

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry) and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry). And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Note: Jesus warned us to beware, be alert/awake, be watchful not to be misled from false teachers, false prophets, and false messiahs, telling us the following: "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away (the word used here is apostatized, breaking of a covenant, idolatry)," **John 16:1**.

Jeremiah 8:15-17

We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror. 'The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan; at the sound of the neighing of their stallions the whole land quakes. They come and devour the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it. For behold, I am sending among you serpents, adders that cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you,' declares the LORD.

Note: It was Jesus' Reason for coming, to destroy the works of the devil (lawlessness, the teaching and instruction that would contradict and oppose the teaching and instruction of God (the Law)), which he empowered his followers to do the same.

1 John 3:7-9

Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

Luke 10:19

"Behold (listen with understanding), I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."

Zechariah 11:15-17

Then the LORD said to me, “Take once more the equipment of a foolish shepherd. For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs. ‘Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!’”

Note: God here gives a picture of who the Anti-Christ will come from, "a foolish shepherd . . . tearing off even their hoofs . . . who deserts the flock," the tribe of Dan, a shepherd of the people of God, from the curse spoken of Dan from his father Israel/Jacob. In addition, God gives us a picture of the physical attributes of the Anti-Christ, "his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded."

A secondary picture is also found in scripture of the Story of God's Redemption, as read in Judges:

Judges 13:2-5, 24

There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no children. Then the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines' . . . Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the LORD blessed him.

Judges 14:8-9, 13-14, 18

8 After some days he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and behold (listen with understanding), there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. 9 He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion. And they said to him, “Put your riddle, that we may hear it.” 14 And he said to them, “Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet.” And in three days they could not solve the riddle. 18 And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, “What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?”

Note: The Lion is a symbol of Judah, from whence the Messiah would come out of, the Carcass is a symbol of the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah out of the line of Judah, the honey is a symbol of the Messiah, Jesus, (“My son, eat thou honey, because it is good: and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.” **Proverbs 24:13-14**) and the bees are a symbol of the Tribe of Dan, of which come the same symbol and teaching of the present-day Freemasonry/Masonry

Regarding Judah

While Joseph is a type and foreshadowing of the Messiah – the “suffering servant” – Mashiach ben Yosef; Judah is a forefather of Jesus as well

Hebrews 7:14

For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah

8 “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; ... your father's sons shall bow down before you.

1 Chronicles 5:2

...though Judah became strong among his brothers and a chief came from him...

your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;

Psalm 18:40

You gave me my enemies’ necks, and those who hated me I destroyed.

9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

Revelation 5:4-5

*⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

2 Samuel 7:16

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me.^[a] Your throne shall be established forever.

11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine,

John 12:14-15

¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”

John 15:1, 4-5

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

Revelation 19:11-13

*¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a **robe dipped in blood**, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.*

12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

Revelation 1:12-14

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire

VI. Be strong, and a true follower of God ... by posturing your life as a Light of God's Truth to all mankind, desiring that none perish (absent of God's Truth), even in death, not separating yourself from the Truth (as Paul taught, “to live is Christ, and to die is gain,” Philippians 1:21)

Genesis 50:15-21, 24

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ ‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them ... ²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

From Jonathan Cahn:

Most believers want a blessed life and they're waiting for blessings to come. We think it's going to come any day or any year. I know God promised the blessing. You're waiting for God to give you the blessing and you're wondering why it isn't coming. The problem is the grammar. We're thinking blessing is only a noun. Blessing is a noun, but the key is, it's also a verb. Blessing isn't just something you wait for; blessing is something you do. If you want a life of blessing, then bless. Don't spend your life waiting for the blessing. Spend your life blessing. Messiah said it's more blessed to give or to bless than to receive. Start blessing and your life will be blessed - more blessed. You can fill your life with blessings by blessing your loved ones, co-workers, the cashier, stranger, blessing everyone you can. Bless and you shall have a blessed life. Don't wait any more for a blessing to come because you've already been blessed by God. It'll all start a blessed life when we learn to bless and keep blessing. Then your life will be filled up with blessing.

TODAY'S MISSION - Instead of focusing on your needs today, go out and be a blessing to someone else in need - and don't forget to praise and thank God as you do.

When Jesus arrives, He announces a new Kingdom, selects a new set of 12 (the disciples), who represent the beginning of a renewed Israel

- Jesus is Messiah, the heir of David (Matthew 1:1)
- Jesus is related to Aaron, and the new High Priest (Luke 1:6, 36; Hebrews 4:14)
- Jesus = Yeshua = YOSHUA = Joshua
- Paul calls those in Christ the “Israel of God” (Galatians 3:7; 6:16)
- Peter calls the Church a “holy nation” of royal priests (1 Peter 2:9-10)

John 10:1-21

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow,

but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

To be men and women that are strong, true followers of God, Peter encourages us to walk in a “living hope”, a full assurance of the goodness of God for us, both now and in the future, based on the resurrection life of Jesus.

By God’s power, we’re being “guarded through faith” for a salvation ready to be revealed in the *acharit hayamim*, the last days. Despite our many trails and afflictions now, the furnace of affliction is never for our destruction, but for our refinement.

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