



Introduction

Jacob blesses his sons.



Questions

1. Why does Jacob say that Reuben won't excel?
2. Which of Jacob's sons was blessed with the promise of being like a lion and ruling over his brothers?
3. Who did Jacob want to be buried with in the cave in the field of Machpelah?



Summary Points

- **v 1** Jacob, now a very old man, calls his family together
- **v 2 to 27** Jacob comments on each of his sons and what will happen to their tribes in days to come. The information below gives a possible explanation of Jacob's comments
- **v 28 to 33** Jacob dies after instructing his sons to bury him with Abraham and Isaac in Canaan in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah

Timeline to 2000 BC (see below)



Information

Jacob's blessings on his sons

A suggested interpretation of Jacob's blessings on his sons in Genesis 49 v 3 to 27.

- Reuben will lose his privilege as firstborn because of his incest with Bilhah (v 3 and 4)
- Simeon and Levi share the trait of violence. Simeon's tribe will occupy an area within Judah's tribal area. Levi's descendants will be scattered throughout the land (v 5 to 7)
- Judah's tribe will provide the ruler of Israel. Jesus Christ came from the tribe of Judah (v 8 to 12)
- Zebulun will be close enough to the sea to be involved with shipping (v 13)
- Jacob says the tribe of Issachar will be strong but not over zealous, sometimes becoming servants to others (v 14 and 15)
- The judge Samson will come from Dan. A group of Danites will show their character dealing with Micah in the time of the judges (v 16 and 17)
- Being on the east of the Jordan, the tribe of Gad will be vulnerable to attack from Israel's enemies (v 19)
- The tribe of Asher will have the rich fertile land by the Mediterranean Sea (v 20)



- Naphtali will have an independent spirit encouraged by their position on the northern border(v 21)
- Joseph's tribes Manasseh and Ephraim will be very fruitful because Joseph trusted in God through all his trials when he was sold by his brothers (v 22 to 26)
- Benjamin's tribe will be very warlike (v 27)

? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 4, Q 2: v 8 and 9, Q 3: v 31



Bible timeline

