

# Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

[Genesis 49:1 – 28](#)

“God Bless You” – December 3, 2023



## Introduction

As you look at the lyrics of “Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel,” you will notice that it is a song of longing. God’s people are in mourning, in loneliness, exile, darkness, death, sin and suffering. It is a song that reflects waiting for God’s salvation. Waiting under the burden of pain, sin and darkness can leave us weary. Does that describe your life right now? Weariness chips away at our hope. A dark cynicism lurks in the shadows. Does it leave you wondering where God is, and will He actually do something? Are you just going through the motions? What have you placed your hope in? Has the weariness become too much? How can we go from being hopeless to being hopeful?

Jacob was blessing his sons here. He was also speaking prophetically – giving them God’s word for their future. The phrase “in the days to come,” that we see in the first five books of the Bible, refers to God’s plan to deliver His people and to restore His blessing that was lost because of sin. This blessing restores a right relationship with God. Sin left the world weary, in chaos and confusion – groaning. God’s heart to bless His people never changed. The Messiah, who was to come, would make things right. The Savior would come through Abraham’s family.

## Sermon Outline

1. Blessed are those who trust God’s word. (49:1-28)
2. Blessed are those who trust God’ King. (vs. 8-12)

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Chapter 49:1-28

In the passage, the bookends of blessing lead us to compare two groups in Jacob’s family. Group one is the wicked – Reuben, Simeon, and Levi. They got tired of waiting and ran ahead with their own way of doing things. Desires took control. Reuben slept with Jacob’s wife, and Simeon and Levi took justice into their own hands. When we push God to the margin and put ourselves in charge, we become unstable as water. We can become scattered. What tempts you to take control of the circumstances of your life?

Group two is the righteous where we mainly see the story of Joseph. In terms of his circumstances, Joseph was in a desert wasteland. We expect that Joseph would be weary, hopeless, and bitter. But Jacob describes him as a “fruitful bough.” How did Joseph thrive? God strengthened and encouraged him. He trusted God. Do you want to be fruitful in a desert?

How does God transform His people? God strengthens the weary by His word. When life knocks us down, we are tempted to take the easy path. It’s hard to wait on God, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. Yet in times like this, it is hard to even want to read the bible, but it is then that we need it most. ([Psalm 119:28](#)) We need to gather with God’s people each week to hear God’s word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. Are you in a season of weariness? Where are you looking for strength? We can minister to each other as a church family by praying for each other as well as encouraging each other with God’ word. How can you do that this week? Be creative! Who can you encourage this week with God’s word?

To become like the fruitful tree, we must delight in His word. God’s law reveals our sin, so how can we delight in something that rightly condemns us?

**Additional Reading:** *Genesis 34 & 35; Psalm 1*

### 2. Read vs. 8 – 12

In days to come, all the tribes will bow down to the tribe of Judah. He is like a lion who is victorious. From Judah’s tribe, a King will come. The monarchy will be established first through David who was a signpost pointing forward to a better, future king. ([vs. 10](#); [Zechariah 9:9](#)) The rule of this future King will be unrivaled.

This future King is Jesus! That is what this text is about. There will be no end to Jesus' kingdom. He reigns now! He rules as King whether we follow Him or not. He rules as King whether we like it or not. We were made by God for God. We need a King. We are made to submit to a King.

The problem is that we have sinned against this King. That makes us an enemy of the King. Let that sink in. The Bible ends with Jesus victorious. ([Rev. 5:5](#)) The Lion of the tribe of Judah is not indifferent to sin. He hates all evil and all wickedness. The good news is that Jesus is an extraordinary King. He is the Lamb that was slain. ([Rev. 5:6](#)) He is a merciful King who willingly laid down His life for our redemption.

Jacob's tough words to his sons are a loving warning to his sons. If they turn from their sin now, the tough words will become a blessing to them – a blessing that is suitable. The same is true for us. Today is the day of salvation. What will you do with Jesus, the King? Will you persist in sin? If you turn and repent, trusting in Jesus alone, you will live eternally.

God is faithful. What He says will happen will come to pass! In the days to come, God will do exactly what He says in His word. Currently, we wait in hope for the completion of our salvation. Here are 4 applications:

1. Don't give up! Even if your life is a mess – keep going. God can redeem the mess.
2. Don't panic. Jesus sits on the throne.
3. Ditch the lesser hopes for hope in Christ. (Ask God to search your heart and reveal any lesser hope.)
4. Let God's love strengthen your hope. Are you tired? Is it hard to hope? Don't listen to our circumstances or feelings – look to the cross where Jesus demonstrates His love for you. God is not against you! He is for you! ([Romans 8:31-32](#))

With confidence and hope, we can sing the refrain of "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel." Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come with us to dwell! He will wipe away every tear. You will not be ashamed for hoping in Jesus.

**Additional Reading:** *Luke 1:26-33*

#### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

**Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Genesis 49:29-50:26](#) "God Meant It For Good"