

The Prophecy of Jacob's Sons

49: 1-28

This is the last of the deathbed oracles of **Genesis**, and is the first sustained piece of Hebrew poetry in the TaNaKh. The use of an extended section of poetry at the conclusion of a long narrative unit is characteristic of the Torah in general.

This passage reiterates the book's major theme. Mankind lost the blessing of **ADONAI** through sin and rebellion in the garden of Eden. But **God** will restore **His** blessing through **the Messiah**, who will come through the line of **Judah (49:10)**.⁷⁵⁸ **The rabbis teach that Jacob gathered his sons around him because he wanted to tell them when the Messiah would come. But suddenly the Shechinah glory left him, therefore, he had to merely speak of what would happen to his sons in the future.**