

Title: "They shall teach Jacob Your judgments" Deuteronomy 33:10

Text: Deuteronomy 33:8-11

MOSES' PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING ON THE TRIBE OF LEVI

⁸ And of Levi he said:

*"Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one,
Whom You tested at Massah,
And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,*

*⁹ Who says of his father and mother,
'I have not seen them';
Nor did he acknowledge his brothers,
Or know his own children;
For they have observed Your word
And kept Your covenant.*

*¹⁰ They shall teach Jacob Your judgments,
And Israel Your law.
They shall put incense before You,
And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar.*

*¹¹ Bless his substance, LORD,
And accept the work of his hands;
Strike the loins of those who rise against him,
And of those who hate him, that they rise not again."*

Deuteronomy 33:8-11

1. Great privilege was bestowed on the tribe of Levi
 - a. They would be given the Thummim and Urim Deuteronomy 33:8
 - i. These were sacred instruments that the High Priest used to discern God's Will
 - ii. They provided answers for yes/no questions, and either-or decisions
 - iii. They guided important decisions to be made, i.e. leadership and military decisions
 - b. Levi would be entrusted with discerning God's Will for the nation of Israel
2. Great responsibility was given to Levi

- a. They would be responsible for teaching God’s law and judgments to Israel Deuteronomy 33:10a
- b. They would also be responsible for ministering to the Lord Deuteronomy 33:10b
 - i. Placing incense before Him
 - ii. Offering a burnt sacrifice to Him
- 3. Great blessing was pronounced on Levi Deuteronomy 33:11
 - a. That God would bless their substance
 - b. That God would accept the work of their hands
 - c. That God Himself would land a devastating blow on all who were against them

A COMPARISON WITH JACOB’S PRAYER IN GENESIS 49

⁵ *“Simeon and Levi are brothers;
Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.*

⁶ *Let not my soul enter their council;
Let not my honour be united to their assembly;
For in their anger they slew a man,
And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.*

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.*

Genesis 49:5-7

- 1. The prayer of Jacob for Levi, as recorded in Genesis 49
 - a. It was very dismal
 - b. It was vastly different from the prayer of Moses
- 2. In Jacob’s prayer
 - a. Levi was described as cruel and full of anger Genesis 49:5-7a
 - b. Jacob wanted nothing to do with them
 - c. He would have them scattered and divided in Israel Genesis 49:7b

3. Levi was heading for disaster
But what made the difference?

THE FAITHFUL KEEPING OF GOD'S COVENANT BY THE LEVITES

⁸ *And of Levi he said:*

*“Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one,
Whom You tested at Massah,
And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,*

⁹ *Who says of his father and mother,
‘I have not seen them’;
Nor did he acknowledge his brothers,
Or know his own children;
For they have observed Your word
And kept Your covenant.*

Deuteronomy 33:8-9

1. The Levites proved their faithfulness at Massah and Meribah (Exodus 17:1-7)
 - a. The incident at Massah and Meribah
 - i. There was no water for the people of Israel to drink
 - ii. The people complained and went against Moses
 - iii. They tested God saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”
 - iv. God proved Himself by causing water to come out of the rock
 - b. This was God testing the children of Israel, whether they truly believed Him
 - c. While the Levites were tested with the children of Israel, they did not take the side of Israel
 - i. They decided to be faithful and stood on the side of Moses instead
 - ii. This was not recorded in Exodus or Numbers, but it is stated here
 - iii. The Levites were taught well by Moses
 - iv. They proved themselves in faithful obedience to God and Moses
2. The Levites also proved their devotion to God during the incident of the Golden Calf (Exodus 32:25-29)

- a. Amid the great sin being committed by the people of Israel
- b. The sons of Levi responded to the call of Moses
- c. They stood on the Lord's side
- d. They went against brother, companion, and neighbour for the sake of the Lord
- e. They did according to the word of Moses and consecrated themselves to the Lord

LESSONS THAT WE CAN LEARN

1. We may have a Disastrous start
Or we may be heading to Disaster
2. But God can make the Difference
If we Devote ourselves to Him
 - a. Learning from failure
 - b. Being loyal to Him while others are not
3. God can turn things around and make us Distinct
 - a. Entrusted for His work
 - b. Set apart for Him
4. He will also give His Divine blessings
 - a. Blessing our very substance
 - b. Blessing the work of our hands
 - c. Granting us His special Protection and Presence