

This chart reviews Jacob's prophesies and their fulfillments regarding his sons (References: John MacArthur's Study Bible, Dr. Kent Hughes' Sermons on Genesis). For Judah and Joseph, refer to the Bible study notes.

	Jacob's Prophecy	Possible Fulfillments
Reuben	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He forfeited the birthright when he went to bed with his father's concubine Bilhah. (Gen 35:21) • Would not receive power/ honour that belonged to a firstborn son. (1 Chr 5:1-3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No important persons (judge, military leader, prophet, etc) came from the tribe of Reuben.
Simeon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simeon & Levi were disqualified by the murder of all Shechemites in vengeance (Gen 34). • Jacob protested against their anger and their violence. He prophesied that their tribes would be scattered in the Promised Land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not receive land – their allotment in the Promised Land lay largely within the territory of Judah. • The tribe of Simeon was by far the smallest in the second census of Moses (Num 26:14).
Levi	(As for Simeon, see above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became the priestly tribe because of the tribe's stand against idolatry (the golden calf in Ex 32). • Received land and towns that were scattered throughout Israel (Num 35).
Judah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Bible study notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Bible study notes
Zebulun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They would live by the sea and be a haven for ships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tribe's territory did not actually border the sea (Josh 19:10-16), though their territory was within 10 miles of the Sea. The Jewish historian Josephus indicated that a caravan route passed through their land, which allowed them to profit from caravan / maritime trade.
Issachar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His tribe was compared to a hardworking "donkey" who submitted to forced labour in a pleasant and restful land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land that Issachar received was considered by historians to be fertile. It was located near the territory of Zebulun, Manasseh and Asher. <p>In Judges 1, the battles of these 3 tribes against the inhabitants were mentioned, but conflicts involving Issachar were not recorded. One could speculate that they lived at peace, and possibly in a tributary relationship with the inhabitants.</p>
Dan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His tribe was described as a judge to the people, and compared to a "viper" who attacked by stealth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The judge Samson came from the Tribe of Dan (Judges 13:2). He defeated the Philistines by his strength and trickeries. • The Danites eventually abandoned the land allotted to them and moved to the north-most portion of the promise land where they conquered a peaceful and unsuspecting people (Judges 18).
Gad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His tribe was described as one often attacked by raiders, but who came out victorious ultimately. 	The tribe of Gad settled on the Trans-Jordan lands and was therefore exposed to invaders (Judges 10:8). They were described as valiant warriors in David's army (1 Chron 12:8-15).
Asher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land of his tribe was described as one that would yield rich bread and delicacies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asher's land was the agricultural rich region north of Carmel (Josh 19:24-31). It was said to yield gourmet delights, including much olive oil (Deut 33:24-25).
Naphtali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His tribe was described as a "deer" that gained freedom and would bear beautiful fawns (or words). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naphtali's military agility and speed made them effective, particularly when led by Deborah and Barak (Judges 5).
Joseph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Bible study notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Bible study notes
Benjamin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His tribe was described as a vicious wolf that devoured prey and divided plunder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin was known for their warlike nature, especially in archers and slingers (Judge 20:16, 2 Chron 14:8). Men such Ehud (see Judges 3:1-22) and King Saul were especially noted for their fierceness.