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# DAILY READING

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Genesis 49:22-33

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### JACOB'S LAST WORDS

**49** <sup>22</sup> Joseph is a fruitful vine,  
a fruitful vine beside a spring;  
its branches climb over the wall.  
<sup>23</sup> The archers attacked him,  
shot at him, and were hostile toward him.  
<sup>24</sup> Yet his bow remained steady,  
and his strong arms were made agile  
by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob,  
by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,  
<sup>25</sup> by the God of your father who helps you,  
and by the Almighty who blesses you  
with blessings of the heavens above,  
blessings of the deep that lies below,  
and blessings of the breasts and the womb.  
<sup>26</sup> The blessings of your father excel  
the blessings of my ancestors  
and the bounty of the ancient hills.  
May they rest on the head of Joseph,

on the brow of the prince of his brothers.

<sup>27</sup> Benjamin is a wolf; he tears his prey.  
In the morning he devours the prey,  
and in the evening he divides the plunder.”

<sup>28</sup> These are the tribes of Israel, twelve in all, and this is what their father said to them. He blessed them, and he blessed each one with a suitable blessing.

## **JACOB’S BURIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

<sup>29</sup> Then he commanded them: “I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hethite. <sup>30</sup> The cave is in the field of Machpelah near Mamre, in the land of Canaan. This is the field Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hethite as burial property. <sup>31</sup> Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried there, Isaac and his wife Rebekah are buried there, and I buried Leah there. <sup>32</sup> The field and the cave in it were purchased from the Hethites.” <sup>33</sup> When Jacob had finished giving charges to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, took his last breath, and was gathered to his people.