

# Then Jacob Called for His Sons to Gather Around Him

## 49: 1

Then Jacob called for his sons and said: Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in the *acharit-hayamim*, literally *the end of the days*. **The rabbis teach that this refers to the days of the Meshiach.** Ya'akov will give much more than that standard patriarchal blessing. It will be a prophecy that will foreshadow the development of **the twelve tribes of Isra'el** and the environments in which **they** will live when **they** settle in **the land of Canaan**. It is similar to the prophetic history given by Moshe as he enumerates the future of **the twelve tribes** in **Deuteronomy Chapter 33**.

Now we come to an important expression. We find that there are certain expressions that the Bible uses over and over again. One of those expressions is **the last days**. **The last days** of **Isra'el** will be different from **the last days** of the Church. A very sharp dispensational distinction needs to be made between these. **Jacob** is talking about **the last days** of **the nation of Isra'el** and what will happen to **his twelve sons** and **the twelve tribes** that will come from them.

Many talk about the fact that certain prophecies concerning **the nation of Isra'el** have been fulfilled. That is true. But we can narrow it down even further by dividing **Isra'el** into twelve parts and recognizing that **God** has had something to say concerning each **son** and **tribe**. Not only have **His** prophecies concerning the nation been fulfilled, but also prophecies concerning each **tribe** have been fulfilled. That is what makes them all the more amazing. In the chapter before us we will see the prophecies of what will befall each **tribe in the last days**. While some of them have already been fulfilled, most of them await final **far eschatological** fulfillment.<sup>759</sup>