

Parshah Insights 2021

Parshah: Vezot HaBrachah

(Deuteronomy 33-34)



Jacob's Blessings:

(Genesis 49)

- FATHER of the Nation
- Birth Order
- Ends w/ “Vezot”

Moses' Blessings:

(Deut. 33)

- TEACHER
- Order of Conquest (?)
- Begins w/ “Vezot”

Moses' Unique Pairings

REUBEN & JUDAH – The replaced firstborn

LEVI [& ~~Simeon~~] – Partners in anger

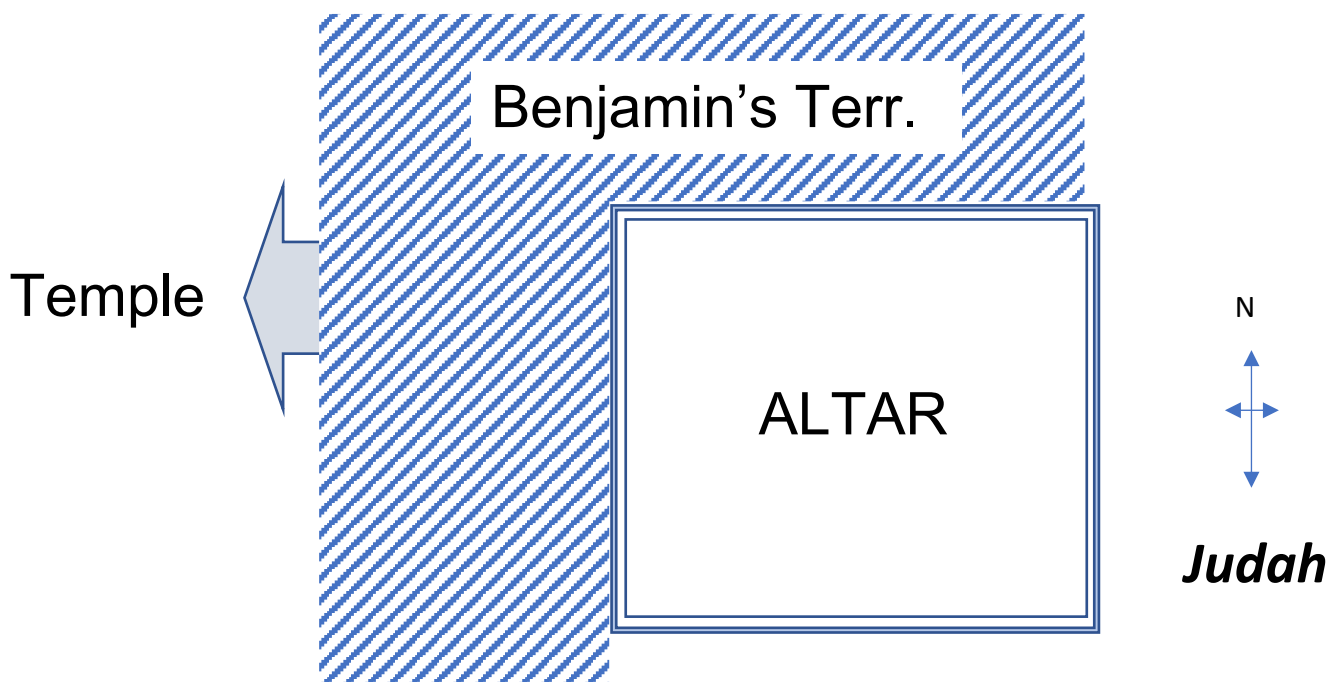
BENJAMIN & JOSEPH – Rachel's sons

ZEBULUN & ISSACHAR – Partners in service

GAD & DAN – Dissatisfied brothers

NAPHTALI & ASHER – The “blessed” ones

יששכר



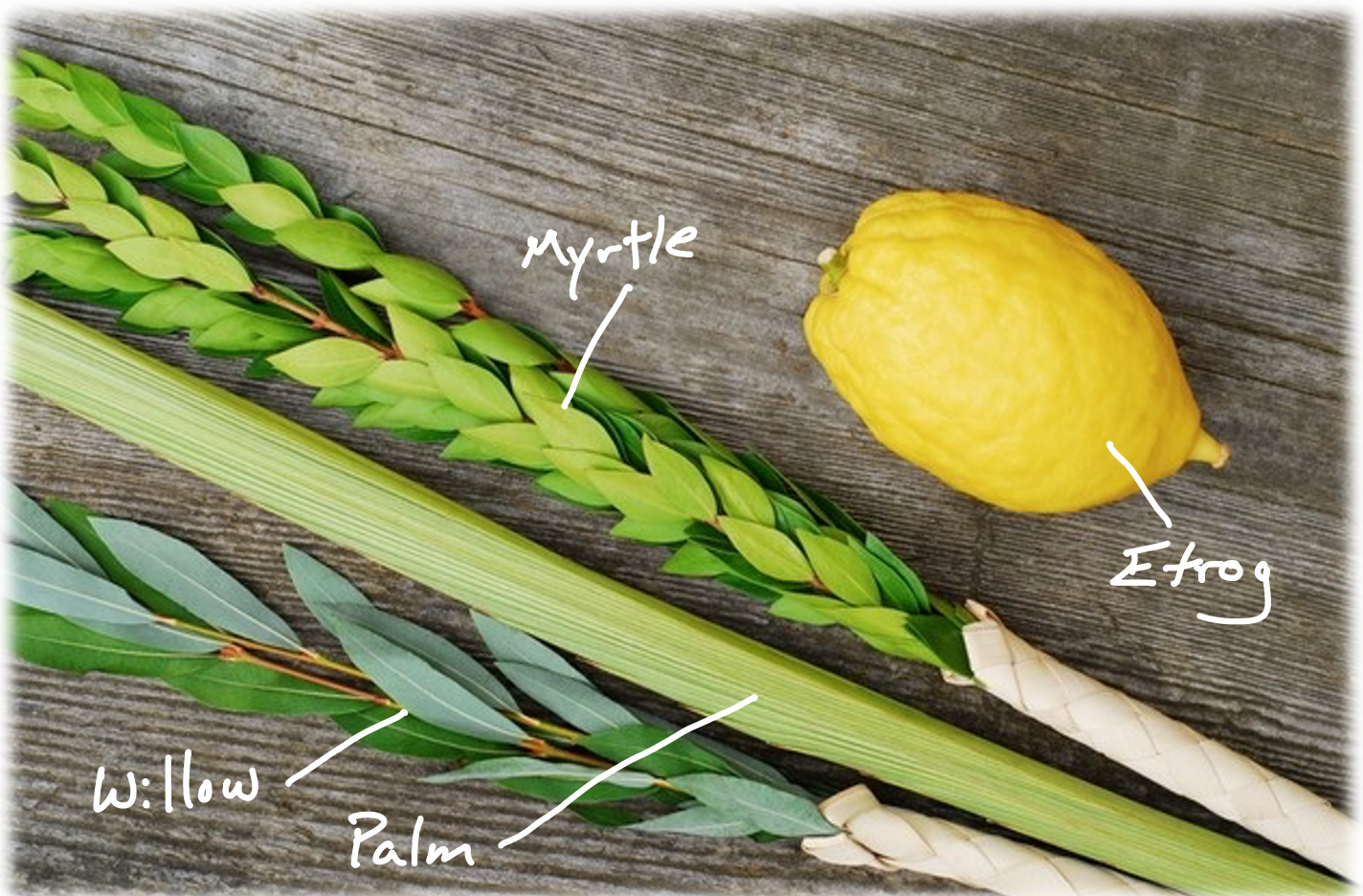
Leviticus 23:39

On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of Adonai seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. And you shall take on the first day the ...

fruit of splendid trees...
branches of palm trees and ...
boughs of leafy trees and ...
willows of the brook, and ...

Etrog
Palm
Myrtle
Willows

... you shall rejoice before Adonai your God seven days.



L.H. - **Etrog** = the Heart

R.H. { **Palm** = the Spine
Myrtle = the Eyes
Willow = the Mouth } Bound together

	TASTE	SCENT
Willow	-	-
Myrtle	-	✓
Palm	✓	-
Etrog	✓	✓

Four Types of People:

Willow - no scent + no taste = lack of Torah and good deeds

Myrtle - scent + no taste = Good deeds, but no Torah

Palm - taste + no scent = Torah, but no good deeds

Etrog - taste + scent = Torah + good deeds

Vayikra Rabbah

“What is God to do with them? To destroy them is unthinkable. Rather, God says, ‘Bind them together in one bond and they will atone for each other!’”



Deuteronomy 34:9

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as Adonai had commanded Moses.

Psalms 119:174

I long for your **salvation** [יְשׁוּעָה, *Yeshua*], Adonai, and your Torah is my delight.

Discussion Questions:

- In a faith community, when is a “click” a bad thing? And when is a “click” a good thing? Among the 12 disciples, did Yeshua have a “click”?
 - Discuss how Levi was able to channel his anger. What lessons can we learn from this tribe?
 - Discuss the four species. What lessons and insights stood out to you?
 - Deut. 33:8-11 describes Moses’ blessing over Levi. What are the four particular promises that God made to Levi (v.10-11)? Why?
 - Share how God has used “unpleasant” people in your life to refine you and grow you spiritually.
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NOTES:

Genesis 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. And this [וְזוֹת, vezot] is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

Genesis 49:3-4 “**Reuben**, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father’s bed; then you defiled it – he went up to my couch!”

1 Chronicles 5:1 Now the sons of **Reuben** the first-born of Israel (for he was the first-born, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of **Joseph** the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright.

Judges 5:15 the princes of **Issachar** came with Deborah, and **Issachar** faithful to Barak; into the valley they rushed at his heels. Among the clans of **Reuben** there were great searchings of heart.

Genesis 49:5-7 “**Simeon** and **Levi** are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen. 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.”

Deuteronomy 18:2 They [the **Levites**] shall have no inheritance among their brothers. Adonai is their inheritance, as He promised them.

Joshua 19:9 The inheritance of the people of **Simeon** formed part of the territory of the people of **Judah**. Because the portion of the people of **Judah** was too large for them, the people of **Simeon** obtained an inheritance in the midst of their inheritance.

Genesis 49:8-12 “**Judah**, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down before you. **Judah** is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.”

Genesis 49:13 “**Zebulun** shall dwell at the shore of the sea. He shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.”

Genesis 49:14-15 “**Issachar** is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds. He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.”

Genesis 49:16-18 “**Dan** shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. **Dan** shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse’s heels so that his rider falls backward. I wait for your **salvation** [יְשׁוּעָה, *Yeshua*], Adonai.”

Genesis 49:19 “Raiders shall raid **Gad**, but he shall raid at their heels.”

Genesis 49:20 “**Asher’s** food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.”

Genesis 49:21 “**Naphtali** is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.”

Genesis 49:22-26 “**Joseph** is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of **Joseph**, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.”

Genesis 49:27 “**Benjamin** is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil.”

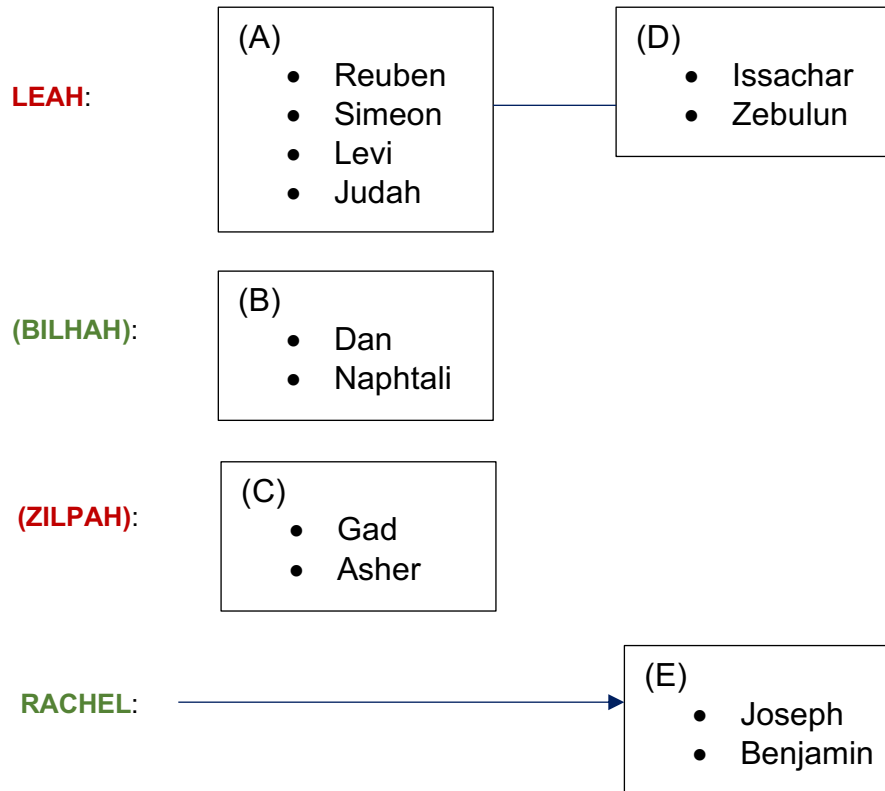
Malachi 2:5-7 My covenant with [**Levi**] was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared Me. He stood in awe of My name. True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Adonai of hosts.

Ezekiel 37:16-19 “Son of man, take a stick and write on it, ‘For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.’ And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand. And when your people say to you, ‘Will

you not tell us what you mean by these?’ say to them, Thus says Adonai Elohim: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in My hand.”

Exodus 30:34-35 Adonai said to Moses, “Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense (of each shall there be an equal part), and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy.”

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Yeshua, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



For further reading:

Tribal Lands: The Twelve Tribes of Israel in Their Ancestral Territories, by Tamar Weissman (Renana Publishers: 2015)