

CROSS-HANDED BLESSING OF JACOB



- Primarily aimed at Ephraim
- Ephraim would become “a fullness of the gentiles”
- Still not fully clear what that means
- This blessing occurred when Joseph was still in power in Egypt
- Around 1750 – 1700 B.C.

GENESIS 49

- Each of the 12 tribes will be given their own unique “blessing”
- Israel was created by God giving Jacob a name transplant, to Israel
- The futures of these individual tribes will be prophesied
- Some prophecies have come to pass, others are yet to be fulfilled
- These prophecies from Jacob were not about **EVENTS** but about the overall **CHARACTERISTICS** the tribes would display
- Prophecies are about the descendants, not the original 12 sons



THE READING OF “THE WILL”



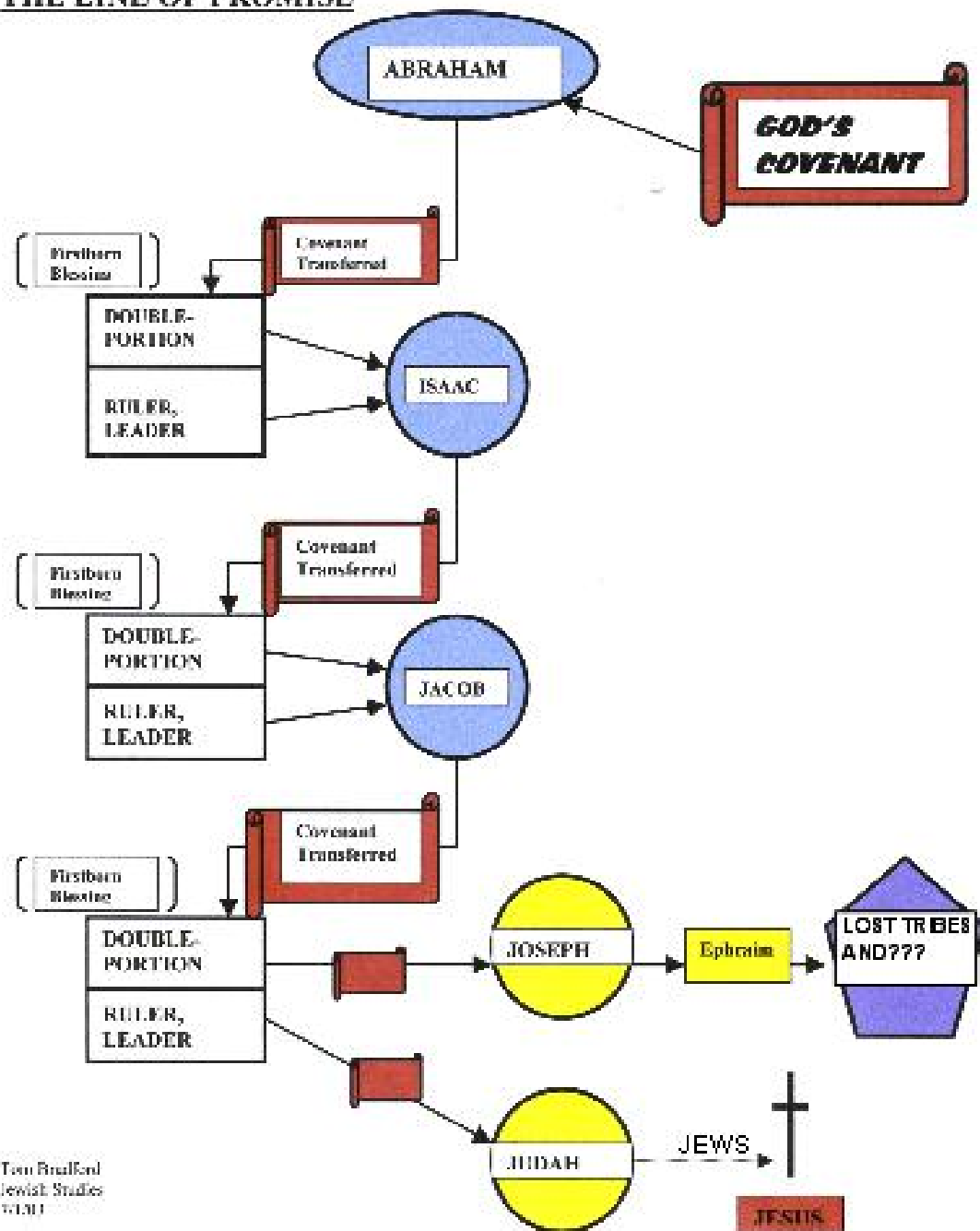
- Sons were anxious to receive their portions
- Hard feelings would result, because the division was not equal
- Blessing begins with Rueben, the natural firstborn
- ***Acharit ha'yamim*** = in the end of days
- May be speaking of the Exodus, or of the End Times
- Included BOTH spiritual and physical manifestations

REUBEN



- The natural firstborn of Jacob (Israel)
- Reuben must have been crushed at being passed over
- “Unstable as water...”
- 1 Chron.5
- Defiled his father’s bed
- Slept with Bilah, Jacob’s concubine

THE LINE OF PROMISE



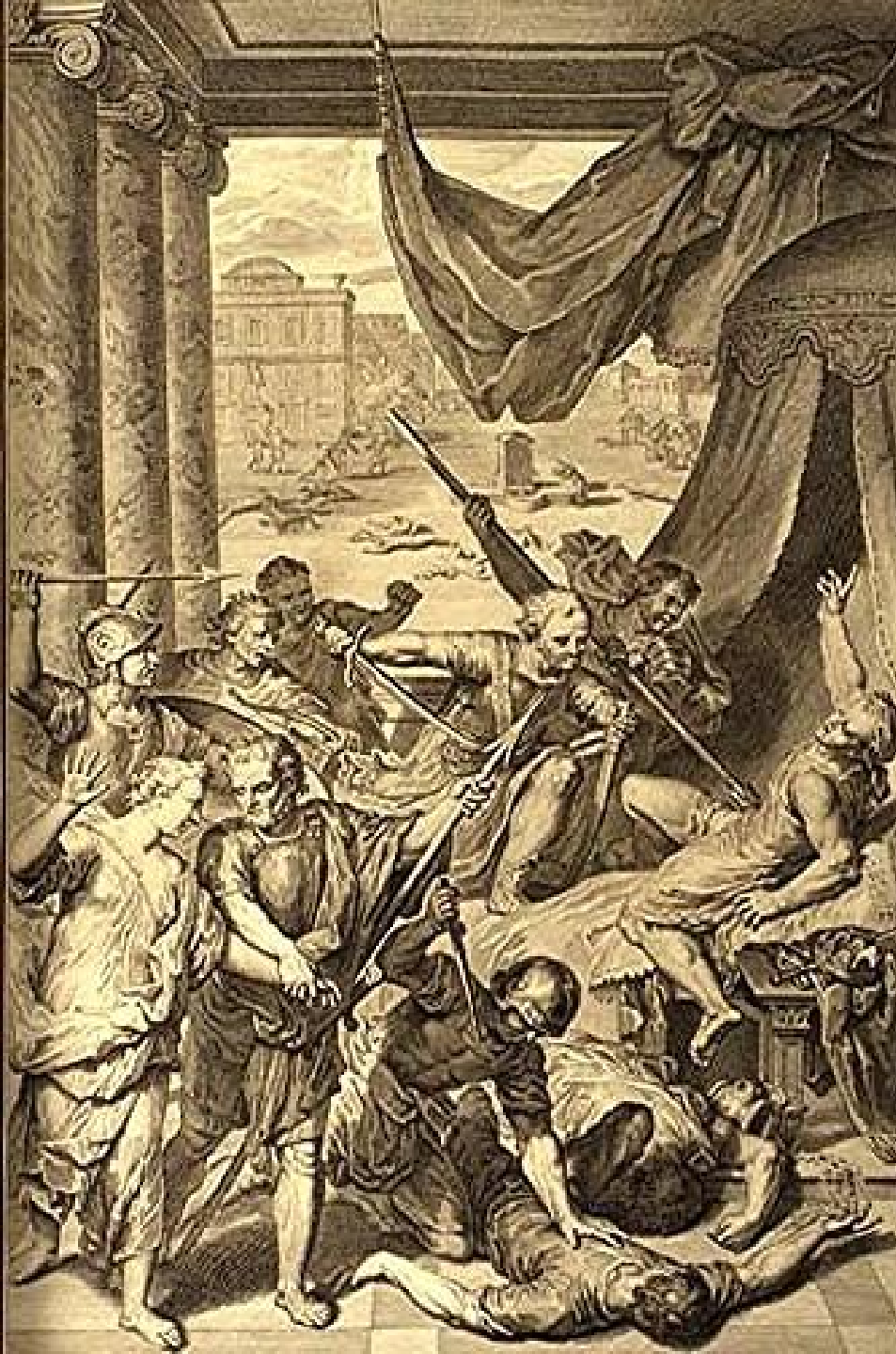
- 2 components to the firstborn blessing
 - 1) double-portion
 - 2) Right to rule
- Jacob SPLITS the blessing into two, and gives one part to Judah, and another to Joseph, by means of Ephraim

FIRSTBORN BLESSING

- Double-portion, Birthright, and Firstborn blessings all used interchangeably
- In reality, the “double-portion” was but PART of the overall Firstborn Blessing
- Writer of Chronicles didn't fully comprehend WHY Jacob split the Firstborn Blessing between 2 sons
- A completely unique event
- Reuben's descendants produced NO military leader, king, prophet, nor judge
- Reuben's tribe did NOT enter the Promised Land, stayed on the east side of the Jordan
- Reuben suffered severe population decline

SIMEON AND LEVI

- Simeon and Levi are also passed over
- Brothers in violence
- These 2 brothers led the raid on helpless Shechem
- Jacob prophesied they would be divided and scattered



SIMEON

- Simeon became the smallest tribe by Num.26
- Population shrunk 50% between Mt. Sinai and just 40 years later
- Simeon given territory surrounded by Judah
- Mostly arid desert land
- Probably the 1st tribe to be completely absorbed by other Israelite tribes



The Twelve Tribes

- City of Refuge
- Levitical city
- ⊙ Capital city
- Other city



LEVI

- Levi's fate was not as destructive as Simeon's
- Given 48 cities within the 12 tribal districts
- "I will divide them in Jacob, scatter them in Israel"
- Levi was divided away and made a special priestly tribe
- Simeon was scattered into the other tribes
- First 3 brothers (Reuben, Simeon, Levi) are passed over

JUDAH

- Here Judah receives the Firstborn Blessing
- Actually, he only receives part of it
- Judah receives the right to rule, but is NOT given the double-portion of wealth
- Judah means “praise”
- King David comes from the tribe of Judah, and Jesus comes from the line of King David



'TIL SHILOH COMES

- The word “Shiloh” appears in the earliest Hebrew AND Greek documents of the Tanach
- Shiloh will become a city and territory within the district occupied by Ephraim
- Shiloh was the 1st “holy” city in Israel
- Many translations make “Shiloh” into “to whom obedience belongs”
- This is based on the assumption of a misspelling (sheen instead of seen)
- Not so
- Shiloh appears to be an Old Testament name for the Messiah
- Earliest Rabbis agree that Shiloh is associated with the Messiah

THE JEWISH MESSIAH



- Many Jews think there will be 2 Messiahs (One from the tribe of Judah, the other from the tribe of Joseph)
- The problem is that because they say he hasn't come, how will they prove it is the true Messiah with genealogy?
- The House of Records destroyed in 70 A.D.