

that would come upon them in the period known as the "last days." Each son inherited a certain blessing. Beginning at verse 22 we note specifically what was to come upon Joseph, his land and his people in these "last days."

"Joseph is a fruitful bough." Immediately this blessing indicates prosperity and wealth. "Even a fruitful bough by a well." When you think of a well you think of water, plenty of water. "Whose branches run over the wall" — Joseph was to break with tradition, break with the Old World and the old order.

"The archers have sorely grieved him and shot at him and hated him." What can that mean? Doesn't it bring to mind the Revolutionary War? "But his bow abode in strength and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob." This speaks of God's intervention in behalf of the colonies, in behalf of the founding fathers. Then we read, "from thence is the shepherd stone of Israel."

Listed in verse 25 are things that were to characterize Joseph's land and people in "the last days." We read,

"Even by the God of thy father who will help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb."

Do you know of a nation that has all of these special blessings from heaven above, the blessings of the deep and the blessings of the breast and womb in greater measure than the United States of America, and one that is strong, active and prosperous?

Continuing on, "The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren." This clearly indicates that Joseph's land and Joseph's people would be separated from the old order and the Old World just like Joseph in his youth was separated from his brethren.

We must constantly keep in mind that the Christ by His death and resurrection confirmed these promises made to the fathers. Christ did not come to cancel the great racial covenants and promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Christ came to confirm them, and Christ died that these great promises might come to fruition.

A few passages from the New Scriptures will establish this fact, and this is very important. Too many Christian people today actually imagine that Christ came to start something new, that He came to put aside all of these prophecies and promises relative to the Israel people, because somehow God couldn't put over the thing He had purposed, prophesied and promised. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is unscriptural. Christ came to confirm the promises made to the fathers. He established them.

In Galatians 3:17 we read what the apostle Paul had to say relative to these great racial covenants, prophecies and promises of the fathers: "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect."

What is the apostle Paul saying? He is saying