

# I HAVE LOVED JACOB

by

Joseph Hoffman Cohn, D. D.

Copyright © 1948

## CHAPTER SIX

### “I HAVE WAITED FOR THY SALVATION”

NOW we come to a beautiful and touching deathbed scene. Jacob approaches the end of the road. Soon the eternal oarsman is to ferry him across the river from which no man returneth. And so an affectionate father, through whose twelve sons there is to issue a people who will shew forth God's praises to a world of heathenism and idolatries, says:

**“Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.”** Genesis 49:1.

There follows such a panorama of the future history of the twelve tribes that to the present day it stands out as one of the infallible testimonies to the divine origin of the Scriptures. Judah is declared to be the chosen tribe through whom the long-looked-for Messiah is to come. Thus the chapter becomes one of the great foundation stones of Messianic truth. Jacob then takes the role of prophet, for here God has chosen Jacob as the mouthpiece of some of the most precious prophetic truths in all Scripture.

In the midst of these prophecies, Jacob suddenly comes to a pause, and it is not difficult to imagine a faint sigh as he yearningly gives audible vent to his fondest dreams and aspirations. Can we not even now hear that sigh as he prays aloud, **“I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord.”**

Down the vista of the years Jacob was looking, and doubtless:

- He saw the sufferings through which Israel would have to go.
- He saw the captivities, the dispersions.
- He saw the persecutions, the bloodsheds, the drownings, the burnings by fire, the hangings, the thousand and one other refinements of tortures that were to be visited upon this poor, helpless people down through the ages;

But he knew that the only ultimate and complete deliverance of this people from the hands of their oppressors would be in that day when the Lord's salvation would become an established fact. So the longing of the heart bursts out of the confinement of the emotions and his soul cries out, **“I have waited for Thy salvation!”**

Significant is the fact that the word “**salvation**” used in this passage is of the same family and root as the Hebrew word for “**Jesus**,” that is “**Joshua**,” which means, “*He will save.*” And it is certainly a reasonable conclusion to say that Jacob in his last hours on earth saw the Lord Jesus Christ and saw what His coming would mean to Israel. Justifiably we may paraphrase Jacob’s longing by reading, “*I have waited for Thy Jesus!*”

Thus is revealed the motivating spring from which came the first transaction with Esau, “I have waited for Thy Jesus!”

### **“Bury Me With My Fathers”**

Peculiarly touching are the last words of Jacob:

**“And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people, bury me with my father’s in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying-ground. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah. The purchase of the field and of the cave that is therein was from the children of Heth”** (Genesis 49:29-32).

A bad man does not die like that!

Full of years, schooled and mellowed in the experiences of a lifetime with the ways of God’s dealings with him, Jacob stands out as a patriarch truly beloved of God. Think of the tragic mistake of any man who seeks to defame a character of such grandeur as this!

~ end of chapter 6 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>

\*\*\*