

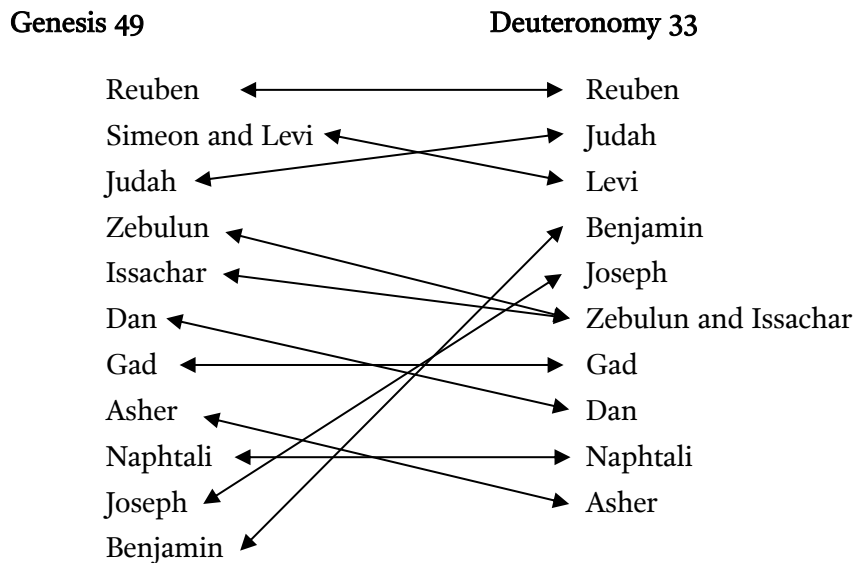
Moses' Final Blessing of the Tribes of Israel
Deuteronomy 33:1–29
Veritas Class
February 4, 2018

Introductory Matters

A. Structure and Design

Narrative Preamble	(v 1)	
Hymnic Exordium	(vv. 2–5)	(43)
The Tribal Benedictions	(vv. 6–25)	(210)
Reuben	(v. 6)	(7)
Judah	(v. 7)	(13)
Levi	(vv. 8–11)	(52)
Benjamin	(v. 12)	(12)
Joseph	(vv. 13–17)	(52)
Zebulun and Issachar	(vv. 18–19)	(19)
Gad	(vv. 20–21)	(26)
Dan	(vv. 22)	(6)
Naphtali	(vv. 23)	(9)
Asher	(vv. 24–25)	(14)
Hymnic Coda	(vv. 26–29)	(45)

B. Comparison with Genesis 49



1. Similarities
2. Differences
 - a. The Arrangement of the Tribes

(1) By Geography

(2) By Significance in Moses Day

b. Center of Gravity

C. Date and Provenance

1. The Date of the Blessings
2. The Date of the Compilation

E. Relationship to the Rest of Deuteronomy

F. Conclusions

1. The Exordium and Coda seem to have been composed very early as a separate doxological hymn.
2. The blessings fragments appear to have been collected later and headings were headed identifying each fragment with a tribe.
3. The collection of blessings was inserted into the preexistent hymn, breaking it up into exordium and coda.
4. The poetic product was inserted and integrated into the book of Deuteronomy and verse 1 was composed by the final author of the book—if not the Pentateuch.