**Deuteronomy 33:23**

[*https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/deut/deut-33/deuteronomy-3323/*](https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/deut/deut-33/deuteronomy-3323/)

*Moses pronounces blessings on the tribe of Naphtali.*

Moses continues the poem of blessing he pronounced upon Israel that he began in [Deuteronomy 33:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+33.1&t=NASB95). The next tribe on which Moses pronounced blessings was the tribe of *Naphtali* (v. 23). *Naphtali* (“my struggles”) was the second son that Bilhah bore to Jacob. She bore two sons to Jacob: the first Dan, and then *Naphtali* ([Genesis 30:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+30.1-8&t=NASB95)).

In his benediction to *Naphtali*, Moses described him as one *satisfied with favor and full of the blessing of the LORD.* God’s favor (Hebrew*“*rāṣōn”) refers to His good pleasure and acceptance resulting in security and prosperity. God’s *blessing* (Heb.*“*berēkâ”) refers to success, prosperity, or material possessions (such as land) which He bestows on someone. Hence, *Naphtali* would receive God’s favor to enjoy many blessings from Him.

Moses further commanded Naphtali to*take possession of the sea and the south*. The word translated as *sea* (Heb.*“*yām”) probably refers to the Sea of Galilee, which is located on the southern boundary of the territory of *Naphtali*. This likely suggests that *Naphtali* would occupy the territory in the Upper Galilee, a prosperous and fruitful land, according to [Joshua 19:32–37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+19.32%E2%80%9337&t=NASB95).

Perhaps one of the greatest blessings Naphtali enjoyed was the fact the Lord Jesus Christ spent a great amount of His time ministering in the tribal areas of Naphtali and Zebulun ([Matthew 4:12–17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.12%E2%80%9317&t=NASB95)). According to the Gospel of Matthew, when Jesus came, He settled in Capernaum, a small fishing village on the northern shoreline by the Sea of Galilee (see map in Additional Resources ) This region is in ancient tribal lands of Zebulun and Naphtali among the northern borders of Israel. This fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy in which he saw a great light coming from here to enlighten those walking in darkness ([Isaiah 9:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+9.1-2&t=NASB95)).

**Biblical Text:**

**23Of Naphtali he said,
O Naphtali, satisfied with favor,
And full of the blessing of the Lord,
Take possession of the sea and the south.**