

Early Shadows

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah

Genesis 49:8-12

December 21, 2014

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.” - **Genesis 49:10**

I. JUDAH - EXALTED OVER HIS BROTHERS

- Judah - “praise” - will be praised by his own brothers. Although the fourth-born child, Judah would take leadership over his other brothers (1 Chron. 5:1-2; Micah 5:1-5).
- The scepter and ruler’s staff, signs of regal authority, are designated for the tribe of Judah (vs. 10).
- In the Messianic kingdom, ruled by the ultimate king from Judah (Jesus), there will be peace and abundance (vs. 11).
- David becomes the first fulfillment of this prophecy, the first king from Judah, leading to the last king from Judah - Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1-16).

II. KING JESUS - THE LION FROM JUDAH

- Jesus inaugurated his ministry by turning water into wine at Cana - a distinct sign that the Messianic kingdom of fruitfulness had arrived (John 2:1-11).
- Jesus preached “the kingdom of God” as one who both established and ruled that kingdom (Matt. 12:28; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 8:10; John 18:33-37).
- King Jesus is a conqueror. He has defeated sin and death. He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the last of the great kings (Rev. 5).

KNOW: The promise of a kingly line, given through the patriarchal blessing of Jacob, to the tribe of Judah, finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

DO: Submit to Jesus as Lord and King

Suggested Reading:

The Work of Christ - Robert Letham

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read **Genesis 49:8-12**

1. Jacob calls Judah a “lion’s cub,” a “lion,” and a “lioness.” Why, do you think? What do those images conjure in your mind in relation to regal authority and power?
2. In what ways is it important that a prophecy from long ago gets fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ? What bearing does that have on us today? What does it teach us about God and his word?
3. In his blessing, Jacob implies that during the Messianic kingdom there would be great blessings of abundance (vs. 11). Israel didn’t experience that abundance during the life of Jesus, so what was he talking about? When did Israel experience those blessings, and when might we expect them again?
4. Read John 1:1-3. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate that he is king over what he created during his earthly ministry?
5. For those who know Christ, Jesus is Savior. Does he also need to take a role as king in our lives as well?
6. In what ways did this short advent series help you, if at all? What are some of your take-a-ways?