

The Lion Eternally Reigns Supreme 2017-04-09

Gen 49:8-12

8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you.

9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He stooped down; he crouched as a lion
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

10 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.

11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine,
he has washed his garments in wine
and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

12 His eyes are darker than wine,
and his teeth whiter than milk.

Beginning with the Fall in Genesis 3, God is patiently identifying the Messiah with over 300 Old Testament prophecies so when He comes, there's no misunderstanding who the Messiah/Savior is

- The prophecies were so accurate that some have claimed that the prophecies were written after the events.
 - But the Lord knows the future because He has decreed/determined it.
 - Main point of the text: Let the truth that Jesus Christ, Lion of the tribe of Judah, will eternally reign supreme affect how you live today.

That's why Genesis 49 is not the spontaneous thoughts of a dying man but prophetic words of destiny for Jacob's descendants...also messianic. 49:1-2, 28

• "days to come" = entire history of Israel & beyond...to the reign of the Messiah. Names & actions of sons foreshadowed their descendant's destiny.

- Three oldest (Rueben, Simeon, Levi) lost rewards for their unrepentance, but they were still blessed.
 - They were part of the chosen nation and enjoyed benefits of God's promises to Jacob's heirs.
 - Our actions determine future blessings and can affect our descendants.
 - Sins can be common from generation to generation.
 - Secure in Jesus Christ, there are still consequences to our actions.
- 2 Cor 5:10*

Since the first three sons were disqualified, the mantle fell to the fourth son, Judah.

- He was not a spiritual giant but a sinner who repented (even offered himself for Benjamin - Genesis 44:18) & inherited great future.
 - Judah is the picture of God's grace to repentant sinners. *Jeremiah 15:19*

The play-on-words in the blessing on Judah is the greatest in length & in range.

Genesis 49:8-12, Rev 5:5

- Lion: Strong, victorious, dominant in battle and will reign over the others.
- Wine: symbol of prosperity....Picture of earthly paradise.
- Scepter/staff: regal reign forever (not depart)
 - Pointing to Jesus Christ as rightful ruler over nations!
 - Shiloh: earliest Jews/Christians recognized “Shiloh” as the Messiah but precise meaning uncertain.
 - Either reference to place or to person of the Messiah.

Christians & non- Christians are fascinated/obsessed with prophecy and can miss the purposes of it.

- Prophecy is not to satisfy curiosity, but to (1) reveal future; (2) warn against sin; (3) motivate to repent & live holy (4) foreshadow life/ministry of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Function of yet unfulfilled prophecy is the same for us today as for Jacob’s sons who did not see the fulfillment of these prophecies in their lifetime.

- Let the future truth affect the way you live in the present. 2 Pet 3:10-13, Heb 11:24-26, 1 Pet 1:3-5
 - Unbeliever: warn of wages of sin and coming judgment>>> Repent
 - Christians: motivate to live a life of purity & hope, assured future blessings.

Bible Prophecy demonstrates God is sovereign and has a plan for history.

- God’s redemptive plan centers on a Person descended from the tribe of Judah.
 - If not understand all prophecy details, you can understand the big picture: the Lord is moving history on schedule toward grand climax when Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, shall eternally reign supreme. Heb 11:1
 - So live each day in light of that wonderful future, eternal truth.