

Studies In Genesis

Judah

The Kingdom of Christ

Text: Genesis 49:8-12

Introduction:

1. The twelve sons of Jacob became the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel.
2. In Genesis 49, Jacob made prophetic blessings over his sons.
3. The most significant of these was toward Judah, from whom Jesus would descend...

I. Judah: The Man

- A. Judah was the fourth son of Jacob by Leah (Gen. 29:35).
- B. Judah saved Joseph from being killed by his brothers (Gen. 37:26).
- C. Judah offered himself as surety for Benjamin (Gen. 43:8ff).
- D. Judah begged Joseph for Benjamin's life to be spared (Gen. 44:18).
- E. Judah committed adultery with his son's widow, Tamar, thinking she was a prostitute (Gen. 38).

II. Judah: The Tribe

- A. Bezaleel, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen by God to build the furniture for the tabernacle (Exo. 31:2).
- B. The tribe of Judah always camped due east of the tabernacle and was the first to depart camp (Num. 2:3; 10:14).
- C. Caleb was of the tribe of Judah (Num. 13:6).
- D. The tribe of Judah settled in the southernmost part of Canaan, near Edom and Zin (Josh. 15:1).
- E. The Lord chose Judah to fight against the Canaanites (Jud. 1:1).
- F. David was first anointed king over Judah (2 Sa. 2:1-8).
- G. When the kingdom divided, Judah served under Rehoboam as God desired (1 Kings 14:21).

III. Judah: The Prophecy

- A. Genesis 49:10 - *A prophecy of the kingdom of Christ.*
- B. David was just a shadow of the King of kings who would come from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14; 2 Sam. 7:12-14; Heb. 1:5).
- C. Isaiah 2:1-4 - *Teaching about the kingdom of Christ.*
 1. The word of the Lord went forth from Jerusalem {Luke 24:44-49 (Cf. Isa. 53; Psa. 16:10; Micah 4:1-5)}.
 2. The church is the house of God {1 Tim. 3:13 (Cf. Heb. 10:21; 1 Pet. 2:5; 4:17)}.

3. Established in the "last days" (Acts 2:16-17).
- D. Jeremiah 22:24-30 - *No king until Christ.*
1. Coniah (also called Jehoiachin [2 Kin. 24:6] and Jechoniah [1 Chron. 3:16]) was to be written childless.
 - a. No descendant of his would prosper on the throne of David in Judah.
 - b. Jesus was a descendant of Coniah both legally and physically (Matt. 1:11; Luke 3:27).
 2. Jesus was promised to sit on David's throne (2 Sam. 7:12-14; Psa. 89:34-37; Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33).
 3. He began reigning from David's throne (which is now in Heaven) on Pentecost (Acts 2:30-31; Dan. 7:13-14).
- E. Daniel 2:36-45 - *Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Christ's kingdom.*
1.

Head of Gold	=	Babylon
Arms of Silver	=	Medo-Persia
Belly of Brass	=	Greece
Legs of Iron	=	Rome
 2. In the days of the Roman Empire, Jesus' kingdom began (Luke 3:1-3; Mark 1:14-15).
 3. Compare Daniel 7:13-14; Psa. 24:7-10; John 16:28; Acts 1:9-11.
- F. Zechariah 6:12-13 - *Christ is both a king and a priest.*
1. Christ is priest now! (Hebrews 8:1-4).
 2. If His throne were on earth, He could not be a priest. If He is not a priest, He is not reigning as king.
- G. Joel 2:28-32 - *The beginning of Christ's kingdom.*
1. The kingdom would come with power (Mark 9:1).
 2. The disciples waited in Jerusalem for power (Luke 24:49).
 3. The power came from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8).
 4. The Holy Spirit came with power on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
 5. Therefore, the kingdom of Christ began on Pentecost.

Conclusion: All of these prophecies relate back to the promise made to Judah - who linked the Messiah and His kingdom with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.