

Series: Popular Stories
Title: The Lion of the Tribe of Judah
Text: Genesis 49: 8-10
Date: June 5, 2016
Place: SGBC, NJ

In our text, Jacob is blessing his sons before he dies. We could preach the gospel by looking at each of these sons.

In vv1-2: Jacob is the head of his house, who calls his children and blesses them, declaring what shall come to pass—Christ is the head of his house, the Everlasting Father who calls his children and blesses his people and he is our Prophet declaring the end from the beginning.

In v3-4: Reuben, the first born son had his birthright removed due to his sin against his father, which effected all Reuben's children—it reminds us of Adam who sinned against God and plunged all men into spiritual death; but Christ the last Adam is God's firstborn among many brethren, "the beginning of God's strength, the excellency of his dignity, and the excellency of God's power."

In vv5-7: Simeon and Levi are both cursed because of their cruel sin of murder over the incident with their sister. Yet, later, we find that God chose the tribe of Levi and made them priests unto God—all mankind sinned and fell under the curse yet God chose some by free grace; by Christ's blood he makes us priests unto God.

But today in vv8-12: we will focus on Jacob's word to Judah.

Proposition: Judah is a type of Christ Jesus.

Genesis 49: 8: Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9: Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10: The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. 11: Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: 12: His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

OUR PRAISE

Genesis 49: 8: Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise:

Throughout scripture, very often when a word or name is given the meaning follows. Such is the case here. Judah means praise. If we look beyond Judah, to that one who came through Judah's lineage, we behold Christ is the one who all his brethren shall praise for our salvation. The very purpose for which God saves his elect in Christ is to give Christ all the praise. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the

firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom 8: 29) One reason we do not preach salvation in any degree by the works of the sinner is because God ordained that our Christ our Elder Brother shall receive all praise from his brethren. “That no flesh should glory in his presence... That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” (1 Cor 1: 29, 31)

One, Judah was preeminent over his brethren in interceding with his father. He was the brother who continually prevailed with his father. All who are Christ’s brethren, praise Christ for interceding for us with God our Father. The one reason God did not destroy the whole world when Adam sinned is because Christ was the intercessor with the Father for God’s elect. Then Christ interceded for us on the cross. And now from God’s right hand, “He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Heb 7: 25)

Brethren, when you think of Christ interceding for us before God our Father, do not think of him pleading with the Father. No, his appearance in the Father’s presence is intercession for us. “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” (Heb 9: 24)

Two, Judah was to be praised because he became Surety for Benjamin. Christ is praised by his brethren because he became Surety for all God’s elect in the everlasting covenant of grace in eternity.

Three, Judah was to be praised because his grandsons were the ones God gifted with the skill to build the tabernacle. We praise Christ because he makes us living stones. Christ fitly frames us together and makes us his holy temple in whom his Spirit dwells.

Four, Judah was to be praised by his brethren as the first tribe who brought offerings to God of gold and silver at the dedication of that tabernacle. “And he that offered his offering the first day was Nahshon... of the tribe of Judah.” (Nu 7: 12) We praise Christ because he offered himself first to God—“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Rev 13: 8) But we praise Christ because his offering was of something much more precious than silver and gold.

1 Peter 1: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;
19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Yes, all Christ’s brethren, praise only Christ for: the excellency of his Person! Because he accomplished our redemption! Because of the fullness of his grace! For the goodness of his providence! Yes, for all things.

OUR VICTORIOUS JUDAH

Genesis 49: 8:...Thy hand *shall be* in the neck of thine enemies; thy father’s children shall bow down before thee.

Jacob declared that Judah's brethren would praise him because Judah would be victorious against their enemies. How we do see Christ, our victorious Judah, in this!

On the cross, Christ put his hand on the neck of our enemies and defeated them all. He bruised Satan's head, who all our lifetime kept his people in bondage through the fear of death. By justifying his people, he made certain that each one shall be called to Christ from the enemies of false preachers and every false way. Right this minute, Christ is risen and reigning supremely over all creation as Head of his people. God is so well-pleased with Christ's offering that he said, "Sit here at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?" (Heb 1: 13)

I Corinthians 15: 25: For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26: The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

Therefore, all God's children shall bow down before Christ. His elect shall bow willingly by God's grace while the rebels shall bow in judgment. But all shall bow the knee.

Romans 14:11: For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12: So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Unbeliever, this is the day of grace. Before you are made to bow in judgment, bow to Christ now by his grace. Kiss the Son, now, lest he be angry. If you confess your sin to God—God is not like us—God will have mercy on you. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom 10: 9)

Do you know how I know I am a child of God my father? The true evidence is that I bow to Christ. I do not have one thing to glory in. I willingly bow and confess Christ is all my salvation. That is how I know. Oh, may God give you grace to hear this word and bow to Christ and confess him now! Christ is the victorious Redeemer of his people! There is victory no other way except through faith in Christ!

OUR LION

Genesis 49: 9: Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

The picture is of a lion approaching his prey. He stoops down. Then as he approaches the prey, he couches then he lies down completely. Then he pounces on the prey. After he devours the prey, he goes up to his den to rest and none dare rouse him up.

Our Lord Jesus is compared to a young lion for strength and to an old lion for wisdom—"unto them which are called, ... Christ is the Power and Wisdom of God." (1 Cor 1: 24)

He stooped when the Son of God came down from heaven and became a man and took the form of a servant. He couched when he laid down his life on the cross. There, he devoured the prey.

Isaiah 31: 4: For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, *he* will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.

Now, From the prey, he is gone up to God's right hand. John said, "One of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, hath prevailed." (Rev 5: 5)

Now what sinner among us wants to rouse him up? Who thinks they have righteousness apart from him so as to stand against Christ in the day of judgment? Not one! We would be better off taking on a fierce lion than attempting to rouse up Christ Jesus the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

OUR KING

Genesis 49: 10: The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come;

Jacob declared God's promise to Judah that the government of earthly Judah would continue until Christ came.

Christ is Shiloh. It means "he whose it is." We can read the text this way: "*The scepter—the sovereign power, dominion and authority—nor a lawgiver—shall depart from Judah: until Christ, to whom the scepter and government belongs, shall come.*"

Isaiah 9: 6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7: Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Ezekiel 21: 26: Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this *shall not be* the same: exalt *him that is* low, and abase *him that is* high. 27: I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no *more*, until he come **whose right it is**; and I will give it *him*.

OUR GATHERER

Genesis 49: 10:...and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be. 11: Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: 12: His eyes shall be red with wine and his teeth white with milk.

Christ said himself, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me." (Jn 12: 32) Remember the ass's colt he rode into Jerusalem? It had never been ridden. Christ tamed him

and rode him into Jerusalem. Each of Christ's people are like that ass's colt. When Christ takes dominion in the heart he tames his child.

Christ is the choice Vine. He does the binding. He binds his foal—his child—to the vine, his ass's colt to the choice vine—that is, to himself.

How? He makes us willing by making each of his people behold our Substitute on the cross—“he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes.” Through the Holy Spirit he makes us behold him suffering in our room and stead. “They shall look upon me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*.” (Zech 12: 10)

“His eyes shall be red with wine.” When wine makes the eyes red it gives joy to the heart. We are made to behold Christ's eyes looking to the joy set before him. We behold how he willingly suffered the shame of the cross to redeem his people from the curse and glorify his Father.

“And his teeth white with milk.” From his mouth we hear him speak the sincere milk of the word, declaring in our hearts, “It is finished!” By the sincere milk of the word, we taste that the Lord is gracious and we rest in him through faith. (1 Pet 1: 25; 2: 1-3)

Has he made you to behold him this hour? Has God drawn you to Christ this day? If so then Christ says, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” (Mt 11: 29)

Amen!