

The “Lion of the Tribe of Judah” Genesis 49:8

Introduction

1. The nature of the Bible

The Bible is:

1. One Book made up of the OT and the NT
2. It is inspired by One God
3. What is stated in the Bible is revealed progressively
4. The Bible has one fundamental and consistent message
 1. The OT gives us the covenant promises of God
 2. The NT gives us an account of the fulfillment of those covenant promises
 3. The NT is the fulfillment of what the OT promised and predicted
 4. The NT does not replace the OT
 5. We can only fully understand the NT against the backdrop of the OT.
 6. The focus of the OT message, is to prepare us for the coming Person and work of Christ in the NT (Lk.24:25-27,44; 18:31; 10:23-24; Jn.5:39-40)

2. Background to the “Lion of the tribe of Judah”

1. The original promise of redemption (Gen.3:15)

2. The covenant promise made with Abraham (Gen.12:3)

3. The expansion of the covenant promise made to Abraham and the Patriarchs to include kings
 1. Kings: Through Abraham (Gen.17:6)

 2. Kings: Through Isaac (Gen.17:15-16)

 3. Kings: The promise continued through Jacob (Gen.35:11)

 4. A unique King promised through the tribe of Judah (Gen.49:8-10)
 1. Judah’s supremacy (49:8)
 1. Judah was chosen over all his brothers (Ps.78:67-68)

 2. Judah would rule over his brothers and enemies

 3. When would this take place? (Gen.49:1)

 2. Judah: The “young lion”—Be warned and fear (49:9)
 1. The image of power

 2. The image of fear

3. Judah: The "Lion" is the sovereign King (49:10; Is.11:1,10; Rev.5:5)
 1. Kingly symbols (49:10)
 2. The coming of a unique King who will arise from the tribe of Judah
 1. Is.11:1,10
 2. Rev.5:5
4. Judah: The scope of this unique King's rule (49:10b; Ps.72:11)
5. Judah: The king will bring in unprecedented prosperity (49:11-12)
 1. Good vines and grapes were highly valued
 2. Grapevines will be so abundant that they shall be used for hitching posts
 3. Wine would be as plentiful as water

Conclusion

1. The Genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt.1:1)
 1. We are dealing with an historical Person (Jesus)
 2. Jesus fulfills the family genealogy laid out in the OT
2. Is Jesus the anticipated unique King, of the Davidic line of kings?
 1. Jesus repeatedly claimed to be God/King (Jn.5:22-23; 8:58; 10:18; 11:25)
 2. Jesus demonstrated His ability to reverse the effects of the curse
 1. Nature (Mk.4:35-41; 6:30-52)
 2. Disease (Mk.1:35-45; 3:10)
 3. Physical deformity (Mk.2:1-12; 3:1-6)
 4. The demonic realm (Mk.1:21-28,34,39)
 5. The raising of the dead (Mk.5:21-43; Lk.7:11-17; Jn.11)
 6. The raising of Himself from the dead (Jn.10:14-18)
 7. And delivering people from judgment by being:
 - The perfect substitute for sin (Mk.10:45)
 - By forgiving sins (Mk.2:5);
 - By conferring eternal life on whomever He pleases (Jn.5:21), and,
 - By "baptising people in the Holy Spirit" into a new spiritual life (Lk.3:16)