Hope in the Wilderness December 12, 2021

*Genesis 49:8-12 Series: Let in Some Christmas Hope*

We also have a King of the line of Judah, one who is mightier than David, and wiser than Solomon - and happy are we in having such a King to reign over us!   
– Charles Spurgeon

Intro: Christmas Hope in an Ancient Wilderness

1. Look to the line of Judah for the Conquering Lion
2. Jesus is the ruler worthy of your praise

v. 8 *Judah, your brothers shall praise you …* *your father's sons shall bow down before you.*

Matthew 2:6 *“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”*

1. Jesus is the conqueror who will defeat sin

v. 8 *your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies …*

Psalm 110:5 *The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.*

1. Jesus is the Lion who ferociously defends his people

v. 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?*

Revelation 5:5 *And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

* What sorts of questions, issues, or challenges do people face that could make them feel like they’re in a wilderness?
* Why would the promise of a conqueror be a source of hope to the Israelites in the wilderness?
* How can remembering Jesus’ identity as the ‘Lion of Judah’ provide hope to God’s people today?

1. Look to the line of Judah for the Eternal King
2. Jesus is the leader who will never leave you

v. 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.*

Revelation 11:15 … *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”*

1. Jesus is the promised son of King David

Luke 1:32-33 *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,* *and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*

2 Samuel 7:16 *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*

Psalm 132:11 *The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.”*

* Why would the promise of an eternal dynasty provide hope to Ancient Israel?
* What is significant about Jesus’ identity as the son of David?
* Why does it provide hope to God’s people today to know that Jesus’ reign will never end?

1. Look to the line of Judah for the Blessing of the Nations
2. Jesus is the king who can satisfy all your needs

vv. 11-12 *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.* *His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.*

*John 3:*35 The *Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.*

1. Jesus uses his riches to provide for his people

Exodus 18:11 *Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people.*

Philippians 4:19 *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

1. Jesus is and will be the blessing of all the nations

Genesis 22:18 *and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.*

Matthew 1:1 *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

Revelation 21:5 *And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” …*

* What difference would it make to the average Israelite if their promised king was to be super rich or not?
* How do kings typically gain and use their wealth and power? How did Jesus gain his? How will he use it?
* Does it provide hope to know that Jesus will be the blessing of the nations? Why?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.

Notes