

## GENESIS 49:8-12 THE LION OF JUDAH

<sup>8</sup> “Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons will bow down to you. <sup>9</sup> You are a lion’s cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? <sup>10</sup> The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. <sup>11</sup> He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. <sup>12</sup> His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.

Although a double portion goes to Joseph, Judah is given the leadership role. He is the fourth born son but the oldest eligible son since Reuben, Simeon and Levi abdicated their places of privilege through disobedience (Genesis 34:30; 35:22). Because of their loyalty to God in another incident (Exodus 32:26-29), the Levites would become the priests and God would make himself their inheritance (Numbers 3:41), but the leadership of God’s people passed down through Judah. The great King David would arise from Judah, and the Greater One, Jesus, would also be descended from Judah in his humanity.

While David fully established the Kingdom of Israel and his son, Solomon, brought it to its greatest earthly manifestation, it is only through the kingship of Jesus that that *the obedience of the nations is his*. Furthermore, he who tethers his colt to a vine and washes his robe in wine lives in paradise. The perfection of Jacob’s blessing on Judah is manifested in the risen Christ; the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

God’s intention from the beginning was that man would dwell in paradise – His peace. It has been the plan of God since the fall to restore man to paradise. God’s steadfast covenant love was expressed in the blessing of Judah almost a thousand years before David, who lived almost a thousand years before Jesus who was incarnate almost two thousand years before you were born. The overwhelming evidence is that God can be trusted with your life.

**In the face of the amazing blessing that you have bestowed upon me Lord, how is it that I am still not living my life in grateful obedience to you. Enhance my faith so that I might live into that hope which can be partially known now but will only be fully known in your perfect time. Amen.**