

“Lion of Judah”

Genesis 49:8-12; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 9:1-7

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- *“Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely”*
- Pros and Cons of a Democratic form of Government
- Longing for one person to be “in charge”
- Only Jesus Christ could wield absolute power without being corrupted by it.
- All spiritual authority has already been given to Jesus Christ.
 - Matthew 28:18-- *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”*

Jesus Christ rules by virtue of...

A. His Victory as the Conqueror at His return

- Revelation 19:11-21-- *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.” And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”*

B. His Fulfillment of God’s Promises

1. **As the LION OF JUDAH, He will be the Ultimate Ruler who will reign over all nations during a time of unparallel prosperity.**
 - Genesis 49:8-12.-- *“Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father’s children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.”*
 - a. The promise made earlier to Abraham that *“I will make you a great nation”*
 - b. God originally established a “Theocracy” in which He Himself would be their ruler. No human king.
 - c. During the period of the Judges, *“everyone did what was right in their own eyes.”*
 - d. At the end of the period of the Judges, the people reject the theocracy, the rule of God over them, and ask for a king like every other nation.

- 1 Samuel 8:7-8-- *“Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.”*

- e. The People’s Choice: Saul
- f. God’s Choice: A *“man after His own heart”*-- David

2. As the SON OF DAVID, He will sit on the throne of David over the kingdom of David in fulfillment of the promise made to David.

- 2 Samuel 7:12-16-- *“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ‘ ‘*
- a. Provision of the Covenant made with David.
 - 1) A son yet to be born would succeed him as king, and to him the covenant would be made.
 - 2) The “throne” or the right to rule would be established forever.
 - 3) The “throne” will not be taken away from him even if his sin justifies discipline
 - 4) David’s house, throne, and kingdom will be established forever
 - b. The Unconditional nature of this covenant. It can only be broken if man can somehow alter the times and seasons.
 - Jeremiah 33:20-21-- *“Thus says the LORD: ‘If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, 21 then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers.’”*
 - c. The rebellious course of Israel’s history
 - 1) Solomon started out great but did not finish well, with the result that God tore the kingdom from Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, but not the entire kingdom.
 - 1 Kings 11:13-- *“However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”*
 - 2) The kingdom divides into two. 10 northern tribes make up the kingdom of Israel. Judah and Benjamin make up the southern kingdom of Judah
 - 3) The northern kingdom is conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC
 - 4) The southern kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians in 606 BC.

3. As the SON OF GOD, He will not only combine the role of the Lion of Judah as the Ultimate ruler with the Son of David and his everlasting kingdom into one person, but He will have the character to be able to handle the absolute authority that is placed on His shoulders.

- Isaiah 9:1-7-- *“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,*

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

- a. Five Facts concerning the Coming Messiah
 - 1) Born as a child, a son of the nation of Israel, a Jewish son.
 - 2) He will rule over God's people and the world
 - 3) Four Descriptive names which reveal His character.
 - a) "Wonderful Counselor"
 - b) "Almighty God"
 - c) "Everlasting Father"
 - d) "Prince of Peace"
 - 4) Seated on David's throne, He will rule forever and ever with peace, righteousness, and justice.
 - 5) This will all be accomplished by the zeal of the Lord Almighty.
4. **All three prophetic lines converge in the Person of Jesus Christ. He is the Lion of Judah, the Son of David, the Son of God.**
 - Luke 1:31-33-- *"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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."*

C. God and His Promises?

1. **The three unconditional promises made to Abraham and his descendants that will one day be fulfilled literally.**
 - a. The Land Covenant fulfilled in the Kingdom when Jesus Christ gathers the Jews from all over the world and settles them in the land promised to Abraham. It has not happened yet but one day will.
 - b. The New Covenant of Jeremiah 31 which promises a new heart, the indwelling Spirit, the forgiveness of sins, and a vital living relationship with God will be fulfilled literally when the Jews repent of their rejection of Christ and embrace Him as their Savior and Lord at His second coming. This has not happened yet, but one day will.
 - c. The Davidic Covenant of 2 Samuel 7 which promised that one of David's descendants would sit on a Davidic throne over a Davidic kingdom forever will one day be fulfilled literally when Jesus Christ sets up His kingdom here on earth and will rule over the house of Jacob forever. This has not happened yet.
2. **If God does not fulfill these promises literally in the future, what confidence can we have that He will fulfill the promises that He made to us in a literal fashion?**
3. **The fact that prophecies concerning Christ's first coming were fulfilled literally gives us confidence that the prophecies regarding His second coming will also be fulfilled in a literal fashion.**
 - a. Peter, James, and John were given a glimpse of the kingdom on the Mount of transfiguration, a preview of what is to come.
 - 2 Peter 1:16-21-- *"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*
 - b. We today have the prophetic word confirmed The Lion of Judah will one day reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end! What God has promised, He will do!