

GENESIS 49:10

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.

WE HOPE IN THE PROMISED SEED.

He Is The Seed Of Judah.

In the name + of Jesus.

The patriarch Jacob was blessing his sons before he departed from this earth. The Lord had promised Jacob – just as he had promised Isaac and Abraham – that all nations would be blessed through his Seed. But Jacob had twelve sons. Through which would the Promise be extended? Where would the Promised Seed come from? Jacob bestowed that special blessing upon Judah. The kingdom would be established in Judah, and the King of kings would come from him as well. We hope in this Promised Seed. He is the Seed of Judah.

History has shown us how his blessing was fulfilled. The Lord's Anointed was King David who conquered Jerusalem. The scepter was held in Judah. David built his palace there. The Lord's Temple was also erected there. Jerusalem in Judah was the center of the life of Israel; for the Lord dwelled there, and the Lord's Anointed ruled there.

David's kingdom continued for centuries. Even though the nation was later exiled to Babylon, a remnant returned. The temple was rebuilt. The kingdom, though merely a vassal-state, was re-established. It was a shadow of its former self, but God had restored Israel. Judah was alive. He still held a scepter. His lawgiver – his elders and his scribes – were still heard. Jacob's promise still held true: **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. (Genesis 49:10)** The Promised Seed would still come – the Seed of Judah.

No matter how glorious the kingdom of David was, it is no more. The Psalmist advises us, **“Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save.” (Psalm 146:3)** That's because the kingdoms of the world rise and fall. History records empires that crushed everyone in their path, but they all fall down. They all end up in the dust bin of history. We can learn about them. We can be impressed with their dominance and influence. But soon they are gone, and their glory has faded. Even the greatest of them could not be trusted. You cannot trust in what is worldly, because what is worldly is always temporary.

This is true of the kingdom of Israel as well. There is no throne in Jerusalem anymore. There is no power found there. In fact, three different religions vie for the greatest influence in Jerusalem today. While Islam, Judaism, and Christianity all claim a place in Jerusalem, there is no king. There is no throne. The scepter has departed long, long ago.

But before the scepter would depart, Shiloh would come. There are a number of different interpretations of the word “Shiloh,” but they all refer to the Messiah. He is the Seed of Judah. He is the heir to David's throne. He is the fulfillment of the Temple and

of all its sacrifices. He holds the scepter. He declares divine decrees. We hope in the Promised Seed, the Seed of Judah.

But the Messiah does not just establish the next in a long line of empires. This is good, because no matter how powerful the authorities of this world are, they are only dust. They may inflict damage, but they do not save. They may take away your freedoms, but they cannot set you free from sin. They may put to death, but they cannot deliver anyone from death. Do not trust in any government, or leader, or even in your own strength. All men are grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. It may look impressive for the moment, but it will not endure. No man can fight off the devil. No man can overcome sin or obliterate sin's consequences. No man has death begging for mercy. Flee from every earthly power; for it has no power. Abandon all hope in your strength; for it gives no real hope.

We hope in the Promised Seed, the Seed of Judah. For, our **help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:2)** The kingdom of our God is far different from any worldly kingdom. He does not ravage the world with swords and spears, but he is run through with a spear. He does not conquer nations and crush armies, but he is crushed under divine judgment. He does not do violence, but he suffers violence. That is because Shiloh, the Seed of Judah, the Messiah, comes to suffer and die for the nations. He suffers violence for the violence you have committed. He stands accused for the sins that accuse you.

We hope in the Promised Seed, Shiloh, the Seed of Judah. His glory is revealed in his shame. His power is seen in his sufferings. By his suffering, he has delivered you from your sins. By his death, he has rescued you from the grave. And Shiloh has risen from the dead. The Seed of Judah lives and reigns forever. Rejoice, Israel, for your King has come. He rules over death. He overrules the charges that Satan makes against you. The grave must heed his words, for he has the words of eternal life. Rejoice, children of Zion, for your God reigns; and he wields his scepter for you.

We hope in the Promised Seed, the Seed of Judah – **and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. (Genesis 49:10)** The Seed of Judah, reigns with his words. “The obedience of the people” means that the people hear him, listen intently to him, and cling to his every word. His words are stronger than your guilt. His words are sweeter than your life. His words declare a peace that cannot be destroyed by any powers – worldly or demonic. For, he speaks love, forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life.

We hope in the Promised Seed. Though he is the Seed of Judah, he has come for all the nations. He holds the scepter of David and rules with mercy and compassion. He issues divine decrees of pardon and peace. And those who long for hope, for forgiveness, and for life itself listen attentively and cling to his every word. For, he has the words of eternal life. His is an eternal kingdom. He dwells in eternal glory. And he provides an everlasting peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.