

MESSIAH IN THE OT

JROC/Week 23 – The Messiah...From the Tribe of Judah

July 14, 2019

UNFOLDING OF GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION – HIS PROMISE PLAN concerning the Messiah.

The Messiah had to be Jewish

Gen. 12:3 – through Abraham and his physical descendants all the families of the earth would be blessed – salvation would be offered to all – Jews and Gentiles – through the Messiah.

Gen. 21:12 - *for in Isaac your seed shall be called.*

Deut. 18:15-19 – God told Moses - *The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren* (from among the Jewish people). If we don't teach Jesus as Jewish – what are we doing? We are discounting these prophecies from God! These prophecies speak to Whom Jesus is and how the people could recognize Him, the Messiah, when He would arrive!

Him you shall hear.... ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require (darash - demand) it of him.

The Messiah would come through the Jewish line. Through what tribe would He come? Judah. How do we know?

Jacob whose name was changed to Israel, was the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. It was Israel's fourth son, Judah, whom God singled out to become the channel through which the Messiah would come.

Gen. 49:1 - *And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days: Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to **Israel** your father.*

Israel's words over each son were prophetic – GOD inspiring him to tell what would happen in the future.

In Gen. 49:8-10 - Of Judah, Israel said, *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.

OBSERVATIONS:

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What do we understand from Gen. 49:8-10?

- *Shiloh* means "He whose right it is." *Shiloh* is a Messianic title.
- *Lion, scepter, lawgiver, Shiloh, obedience of the people* – all speak to the ruling function, the kingship role of the tribe of Judah. "The ruler's staff" in some translations in lieu of "lawgiver" verbiage is considered to be the tribal staff/tribal identity – and this is Judah's staff.
- *Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise* (Judah/Yehudah) means praise; *your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies* (leadership role; kings will come from Judah; conquering). *Your father's children shall bow down before you.* God's ULTIMATE leader would come from the tribe of Judah. Rev. 5:5 – Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- According to this prophecy, the scepter of the tribe of Judah would not cease until the Messiah comes. This prophecy gives specific indicators regarding the time of the coming of the Messiah.
 - The prophecy declares that He would come before the right to impose Jewish law (including capital punishment) was rescinded.

- Were these rights removed when Judah was in exile in Babylon? No. Ezra 1:5, 8 – during the 70 year captivity the Jewish people retained their own lawgivers/judges.
- During the next five centuries the Jewish people suffered under the rulership of the Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires. Yet, Judah retained its tribal identity.
- According to Josephus (*Antiquities* 17:13), in approx. 6-7 AD, the son and successor to King Herod, Herod Archelaus, was dethroned and banished. He was replaced, not by a Jewish king, but by a Roman procurator named Caponius. The legal power of the Sanhedrin (ruling Jewish body) was immediately restricted. Josephus records in *Wars of the Jews*, Book 2, chapter 8 that the Sanhedrin had lost their ability to adjudicate (judge, try, hear, examine, make a formal decision concerning...) capital cases: “And now Archelaus’ part of Judea was reduced into a province, and Caponius, one of the equestrian orders of the Romans, was sent as a procurator, having the power of life and death put into his hands by Caesar” (capital punishment)
- John 18:31 – the Jews did not have the power of life and death.
- Regarding the transfer of power, the Jerusalem Talmud, Sanhedrin folio 27 states: “A little more than forty years before the destruction of the Temple (70 AD), the power of pronouncing capital sentences was taken away from the Jews.
- The reaction of the Jews to these monumental events is recorded in the Talmud (Rabbinic opinion/debates). Augustin Lemann in his book, *Jesus Before the Sanhedrin*, records a statement by **Rabbi Rachmon**: “When the members of the Sanhedrin found themselves deprived of their right over life and death (in approx. 6-7 AD), a general consternation took possession of them: they covered their heads with ashes, and their bodies with sackcloth, exclaiming: **‘Woe unto us for the scepter has departed from Judah and the Messiah has not come.’**”
 - BUT, by 6-7 AD WHO had arrived? JESUS!!!!

- Perhaps this was the year that He was 12 and traveled with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem for Passover. Luke 2:41-47 – perhaps Jesus asked the teachers questions which included the timing of Shiloh’s coming!!!

Several ancient rabbinical references indicate that the rabbis believed that Gen. 49:10 was referring to the Messiah:

- Targum Onkelos (Babylonian Aramaic translation of the original Hebrew Tanakh) states that Gen. 49:10 says – “The transmission of dominion shall not cease from the house of Judah, nor the scribe from his children’s children, forever, **until Messiah comes.**”
- Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 98b, Rabbi Johanan: “The world was created for the sake of the Messiah, what is this Messiah’s name? **The school of Rabbi Shila said ‘his name is Shiloh, for it is written “until Shiloh come.”**”