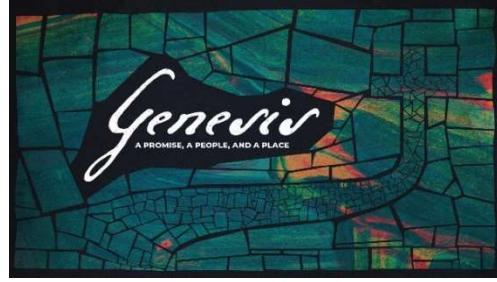


Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: May 19, 2024

Text: Genesis 48 - 49

Preacher: Jerrod



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Our Past Can Prepare Us For Our Future

Genesis 48-49 record the last words and actions of Jacob. This man who was once a deceiver, is now very truthful in his reflections on how God has worked in the past and how God will work in the future. God's promises to Abraham and Isaac have become his own, and now, Jacob teaches those promises to his family as he passes them on to the next generations. Jacob adopts Joseph's sons, and blesses the younger, picking up on a recurring theme in Genesis: Who stands in a position to receive God's salvation blessing? Natural status or worldly positioning matter not. On the contrary, God's blessings are always by grace. In chapter 49, Jacob proceeds to pronounce blessings on his sons, regarding what will come about "in the last days" (49:1 "days to come"). This prophetic picture, it comes as no surprise, lays out the future for these sons and their families. Notable attention from later biblical authors is given to Judah's blessing here, as the line through whom the Christ, the Lion-King will come, vanquish his enemies, and rule all the nations (Numbers 24:15-19; Psalm 2:8; Daniel 7:13-14, Mt 28:18-20; Rev 5:5,9).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro:

1. What is one thing you wish your parents taught you as a kid?
2. This is Jacob's final words to his sons.. If you knew your time and words were very limited, what would you communicate to those whom you love? How can that increasingly flavor your time and words now?

Read: Genesis 48

3. What stands out to you as important in this chapter? Why?
4. How do these verses shape your understanding of God and the gospel?
5. What implications do these verses provide for you in gospel-living this week?
 - a. Note how Jacob is teaching in the present, by recalling the past.

Read: Genesis 49

6. How do Jacob's words to his sons recall the past and point to the future?
7. Which section makes sense to you? Do any of them surprise you? Why?
8. Interact with the following quote - where do you see this in the text and why is it important for you this week?
 - "God's promises remain true despite the pain and struggle this life brings"

Extra:

- Discuss the work of God through Joseph AND Judah to provide salvation in the last several Genesis chapters. Does it come as a surprise that the line of Christ would come through Judah and not Joseph? Why or Why not?
 - In reconciling the tension between the two lines, how does Ezekiel 37:15-28 inform your understanding?