

IN JUDAH (PRAISE) IS GOD KNOWN

Psalm 76:1 *[[To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm or Song of Asaph.]] In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel.*

Praising God makes the unknown person known. Jacob loved Rachel, not Leah. When Leah bore children, she named them after her affliction and bitterness. She was the unknown and unwanted woman and wife.

Gen 29:31 *And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.*

Gen 29:32 *And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.*

Gen 29:33 *And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.*

Gen 29:34 *And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi.*

Notice that all her children served to remind and console her. It was about her, not the children. With each birth, she was still left in bitterness and anguish. However, interestingly, we seem to detect a final sense of peace and contentment in her life when she finally stopped focusing on her own pain, and began to look up to heaven and praise the almighty God. “And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing” (Gen 29:35). There is something about praising God which will release us from our pain, anguish and frustration in this life. Only when we no longer seek God for own ends, and praise him for him, who he is, will we find closure and peace with the world and ourselves. Let us say, “In Judah (praise God is known)”. Reuben, Simeon and Levi’s birth did not bring contentment – only the birth of Judah. When we give birth to Judah (praise) will we know ultimate and eternal peace and contentment! Let Judah be born in our lives today! We don’t need to fight and compete with Rachel, just praise the Lord Jesus Christ! The first three pregnancies were for herself, but the last one was for God. I hope all our pregnancies will be for Jesus. May our hearts and minds and stomachs be full of Jesus, not our problems and frustrations.

Numbers 13:6 *Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.*

Numbers 13:30 *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

Caleb means “dog”. We do not know why this man of the tribe of Judah was given this name, but we know that this unknown man, with an awful name, became famous in Israel because he had a different spirit, according to God. “But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it” (Numbers 14:24). His name may have been “dog” but the name of his great ancestor was “Judah”, and he seems to have never forgotten this. While all the other representatives brought shame to their tribes (except for Joshua of the tribe of Ephraim), Caleb, the dog, brought honor to his tribe. Caleb refused to sing the praises of the giants, the Anakim, but sang the praises of the God of Israel.

***Num 13:31** But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

***Num 13:32** And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*

***Num 13:33** And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

What or who are we praising? Are we making Jesus known or the Anakim? Caleb was full of God. Due to this, God gave Caleb the city of Hebron, which was the stronghold of the Anakim.

***Joshua 15:14** And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.*

***Joshua 21:11** And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it.*

Another unknown man who became very famous – again from the tribe of Judah – was David. While he was totally unknown in Israel, he sang psalms to God in the hills of Bethlehem. God has a way of honoring those who praise him – he makes them known. While those who love and praise God may be unknown for the world, God introduces them with confidence and love. “And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he” (I Samuel 16:12). Through worship and praise David cast out demons out of King Saul; through praise he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and through praise he united the twelve tribes of Israel into one. No wonder Jacob prophesied about the tribe of Judah:

***Gen 49:8** Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.*

Saints of God, our Lord Jesus reminded us: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). God is looking for that unknown person who worships and praises him in truth; he will make you known, because God must be made known through the person who praises him. Consider the Book of Psalms in the Bible. It is the longest book in the entire Bible. Why? Because it is not a book about anyone or any event – just a book that seeks to praise God. Therefore, God gave it pride of place in his beloved book – the Bible; the longest book belongs, not to Isaiah, David, Moses etc., but to God himself. Let most of our time, our words and energy be to praise our God Jesus Christ. It is not right at all if a person speaks for an hour about himself and gives ten minutes to Jesus – let us all become like the Book of Psalms – let us say again, “In Judah, God is known”.

***Micah 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Finally, the small and unknown town of Bethlehem, in Judah (praise), was about to become the famous town in the world because God’s own saving flesh and blood was born in its womb, so to speak. Jerusalem was the city of salvation because Jesus shed his blood in Jerusalem for our sins. This is why the order to kill the baby Jesus came from Jerusalem and, later, the order to crucify Jesus also came from Jerusalem. However, Bethlehem never did any harm to Jesus because it was the town of Judah, of praise. Angels, shepherds, and wise men from the east all gathered to praise Jesus in an unknown town of Judah – the tribe of Caleb, David and now God in flesh himself – Jesus Christ.

***Hebrew 7:14** For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.*

***Rev 5:5** And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

When a pride of lions is unable to look after the young and is in grave danger, they begin to roar in a particular way to call the male alpha lion to come and help them or they may perish. Sure enough, the male lion returns in response to all their roaring and delivers the pride. Similarly, as we praise the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ, he will return one of these days and deliver the church. Let us never stop worshipping, praising him until he responds, and returns. Is it any wonder the 12 apostles’ names are world famous today? They declared the praises of the Lord Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, and God rewarded them

so much so that individuals everywhere are called Peter, James, John, etc. In Judah God is indeed known.