Judah – Destiny and Purpose

Jer. 23:5-6 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

When Jeremiah spoke this prophecy, the kingdom of Judah was about to fall. The land of Judah was full of idolatry, oppression, violence, and political revolution. The Northern kingdom of Israel had gone into captivity 100 years before and Judah seemingly learned nothing from God's judgment upon them. It was under these conditions God gave this prophecy of Jehovah-Tsidkenu.

Judah had disobeyed the Lord and turned their backs on the call and destiny God had designed for them. Jeremiah reminds us all of that destiny. When we embrace the Lord who is our Tsidkenu, then we, too, can appropriate our full purpose because the promises to Judah are ours as those who are “grafted in.” These are the things Judah is called to fulfill in us and through us – these are the distinguishing things about Judah – the things God calls them to focus on:

1. As Judah, We Are Called To Praise

Gen. 29:35 Judah was the fourth son of Jacob by Leah. The name originated in Leah's words of praise to the Lord on account of his birth: "Now will I praise (yadah) Jehovah, and she called his name Yehudah (Judah)."

This is the first mention of Judah in the Word.

Leah was unloved by Jacob (Gen. 29:31) and God took note of that and gave her children – sons Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Judah. With each one, she thought that Jacob would love her more…but he didn’t. When Judah was born, Leah decided to praise the Lord in spite of being unloved by her husband (this time I will praise the Lord NASB), and, with that, she finished bearing children.

The sacrifice of praise is the foundation of Judah's call and destiny.

2. As Judah, We Are Called To Courageous, Wise Leadership

Even though Judah was the 4th son of Jacob…the sin of his brothers disqualified the first three from realizing their birthright. Judah was the one who stepped into the inheritance and leadership of the first-born:

Gen. 37:26-27 It was Judah that pleaded with his brothers, so that Joseph's life was spared.

Gen. 43:1-5 It was Judah that pleaded with His father, Jacob to do right on the transactions with Joseph in Egypt – before they knew Joseph was their brother.

Gen. 43:8-9 It was Judah that offered his own life as surety for his brother, Benjamin. Jacob had kept Benjamin at home when the 10 brothers went to Egypt for food. Jacob wanted one son alive in case the other 10 were killed. Joseph insisted that Benjamin accompany his brother back to Egypt in order to get favor and food…Judah said, If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear that blame forever.

Gen. 44:14, 16, 18, 32 So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house…Then Judah said…Then Judah came near to him and said…
Only Judah is mentioned by name as the leader…it was Judah that spoke to Joseph on behalf of the brothers…it was Judah that came near to Joseph and spoke humbly and wisely to Joseph…it was Judah that offered his life for his brother.

On their first visit to Egypt, Ruben acted as the spokesman for the brothers (Gen. 42:22, 37)

**Gen. 46:28** It was Judah that went to Joseph and brought him to Goshen to be reunited with his father, Jacob.

In **1Chron. 5:2** Judah prevailed over his brothers because the older brother, Ruben, had defiled his father's bed – he lay with Bilah – Jacob's concubine (Gen. 35:22); Simeon and Levi, who came next in order, were passed over because of their cruel and treacherous conduct at Shechem. (They tricked the Shechemites who had raped their sister Dinah and killed every male.) Jacob's blessings over these three reveal why they were passed over (Gen. 49:3-7) To Judah, therefore, were assigned the honors and responsibilities of the firstborn (Gen. 34; 35:22; 49:5).

### 3. As Judah, We Are Called To The Same Blessings That Were Spoken By Jacob and Moses:

**Jacob’s Prophetic Blessing Over Judah – Gen. 49:8-12**

<table>
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<th>New Living Translation</th>
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| **8** “Judah, your brothers will praise you.**
You will grasp your enemies by the neck.
All your relatives will bow before you.

**9** Judah, my son, is a young lion
that has finished eating its prey.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down;
like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?

**10** The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants,
until the coming of the one to whom it belongs,
the one whom all nations will honor.

**11** He ties his foal to a grapevine,
the colt of his donkey to a choice vine.
He washes his clothes in wine,
his robes in the blood of grapes.

**12** His eyes are darker than wine,
and his teeth are whiter than milk. |

**8** “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.

**9** 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?

**10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, (descendants)
Until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

**11** 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.

**12** His eyes are darker than wine,
And his teeth whiter than milk.

**Moses’ Blessing Over Judah – Deut. 33:7**

“O Lord, hear the cry of Judah
and bring them together as a people.
Give them strength to defend their cause;
help them against their enemies!”

“Hear, Lord, the voice of Judah,
And bring him to his people;
Let his hands be sufficient for him,
And may You be a help against his enemies.”
Of course, these blessings are given to Judah, but we who are praisers can also claim these promises spoken long ago. If we look at both of these blessings, we can see some similarities…here are the takeaways:

• **Character** – authentic and honorable. Praised by our brothers – those who know us the best
  Gen. 49:8 …*you are he whom your brothers shall praise*

• **Power and authority over the enemy** – those who are praisers have power in spiritual warfare
  Gen. 49:8 *Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;* Deut. 33:7 …*And may You be a help against his enemies*

• **Leadership** - those who are praisers have the foundation to lead
  Gen. 49:8 *Your father’s children shall bow down before you*

• **Like a lion in majesty, nobility, and strength** – those who are praisers are fierce in the assault against evil (like the male) and fierce in defense of the Kingdom (like the female protecting her cubs)
  Gen. 49:9 …*a young lion that has finished eating its prey Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?*

• **Royalty that flows through our generations** – Until Shiloh, the Peace-Giver (Messiah) comes
  Gen. 49:10 *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, (descendants). Ps. 60:7; 108:8 Judah will continue to produce kings and lawgivers (TPT)*
  David and his descendants ruled over Judah for 400 years until Jesus (Shiloh). Judah produced earthly kings and rulers…Jesus produces Kingdom kings and rulers.

• **Power in prayer** – When you are a praiser, God hears your voice. Praise brings us near to Him (Ps. 100:4). Worshipers are prayer warriors who have the ear of God *You can pass through His open gates with the password of praise…come right into His presence with thanksgiving…*(TPT)
  Deut.33:7 *O Lord, hear the cry of Judah*

• **Wisdom to bring unity among our family** – worshipers should be unifiers
  Deut. 33:7 *and bring them together as a people*

• **Blessing in our hands to achieve our goals** – When you are a praiser, the Lord blesses the works of your hands – whatever God’s plans are for you, your hands will be sufficient for that task. If God has called you to it…you can do it.
  Deut. 33:7 *Let his hands be sufficient for him*
4. As Judah, We Are Called To Go First

Praise should be our first response when we are confronted with any problem or blessing. Only when we put praise into our mouths as our first response to any situation will we have the power and authority needed to go first into the battle of the Church.

Every problem comes with provision and promise attached to it (Graham Cooke)

Judah went first:

Num. 2:9; 10:14 – As Israel marched through the wilderness, Judah went first  
Num. 13 – Caleb (Great grandson of Judah) – among the first to see the Promised Land.  
Josh. 14-15:12 – Judah was the first to be assigned land in the promised land – one third of the country west of Jordan – including much of Jerusalem (Josh. 15:8). The territory of Judah was the largest of all the tribes (Josh. 19:9 The inheritance of the people of Simeon formed part of the territory of the people of Judah. Because the portion of the people of Judah was too large for them, the people of Simeon obtained an inheritance in the midst of their inheritance.)  
Judg. 3:7-11 – Othniel (from Judah) was the first judge in Israel  
Judg. 1:1-2; 20:18 – Judah led the Israelites in battle. When the children of Israel inquired of the Lord who was to go up first against the Canaanites – God replied, “Judah shall go up first”.

We go first because of God’s favor

5. As Judah, We Are Called To Supernatural Creativity

Ex. 31:2 “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.  
Ex. 35:30 [ The Artisans Called by God] And Moses said to the children of Israel, “See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;  
Ex. 38:22 Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the Lord had commanded Moses. 
Also, Solomon called for skilled artisans:  
2Chron. 2:7 Therefore send me at once a man skillful to work in gold and silver, in bronze and iron, in purple and crimson and blue, who has skill to engrave with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

As worshipers we have the privilege of beholding the Lord  
As artists we have the privilege of describing the Lord

Bezalel His name means: In the shadow or protection of God - this is where God finds us to call us - we must be near to Him - in His shadow Bezalel was filled with the Spirit, wisdom and understanding. This is the first mention of anyone being filled with the Spirit in the Bible; the first mention of wisdom and understanding. Creativity flows out of wisdom and understanding: By wisdom and knowledge, God created the heavens and the earth (Prov. 3:19-20).

Bezalel was a man of excellence - he worked with fabrics; engraved gold, silver, bronze; set stones and jewels of every sort, was involved in construction, carved wood; prepared precious oils and incense - he was a master craftsman in every creative medium.

Ex. 31:6 And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab (Tent of the father) the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you.
6. As Judah, We Are Called To Supernatural Warfare

There is no doubt that the tribe of Judah prevailed in some extraordinary battles. The presence and assistance of God gave them great victories:

**Jud. 1:4** Then **Judah** went up, and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek.

**Judg. 1:8** Now the children of **Judah** fought against Jerusalem and took it; they struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

**Judg. 1:9-10, 17-19** And afterward the children of **Judah** went down to fight against the Canaanites who dwelt in the mountains, in the South, and in the lowland.

Then **Judah** went against the Canaanites who dwelt in Hebron. (Now the name of Hebron was formerly Kirjath Arba.) And they killed Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. And **Judah** went with his brother Simeon, and they attacked the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah.

Also, **Judah** took Gaza with its territory, Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

So, the Lord was with **Judah**. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron.

**• Supernatural faith and courage – David – 1Sam. 17**

Goliath = splendor (six cubits and a span = 9.75 feet or 3 meters)
Armor weighed 125.65 pounds
Spear = 2 – 2 ½ inches wide

In this chapter we learn that David defeated the:
Bear – Body. Lion – soul. Goliath – spirit

**1Sam. 17**

26 For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”
34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 Moreover David said, “The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

45 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”

**• Supernatural Song – Jahaziel – 2Chron. 20:14**

14 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

There is enormous power in the song. God created the world with His words – He now calls us to subdue it with His song.
This war pitted Judah against Amon, Moab and Mount Seir – the song of Judah and the temple singers defeated overwhelming odds.

• **Supernatural Strategies in War – Jahaziel – 2Chron. 20:14-17**

   God has a plan for every battle – it may be different from anything we have done before:

   14 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.”

V3 Jehoshaphat and all of Judah gathered to seek the Lord and fast

V13 All Judah with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord

Ps. 8:2 You have built a stronghold by the songs of babies. Strength rises up with the chorus of singing children. This kind of praise has the power to shut Satan’s mouth. Childlike worship will silence the madness of those who oppose you. (TPT)

Children are among God’s secret weapons

V14 Release the prophets and prophetic singers – Jahaziel – descendant of Asaph (tribe of Levi)

V15 Hebrew word for “said” is ‘amar – the same word that was used in Genesis when God spoke to create. Jahaziel spoke prophetically and creatively into the impossibility.

V18 Then Jehoshaphat and all Judah bowed to the ground and worshiped – worship before warfare

V20 Timing They didn’t rush into the plan. They waited until the next morning. We need a word from God – but we also need the timing to execute that word

V20 Believe the prophetic word Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”

V21 Be prepared to do something out of the ordinary

• **Supernatural Sound – Jahaziel – 2Chron. 20:21-22**

   21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

   “Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.”

   22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

This is a sound that came out of praising Jehovah Tsidkenu – they praised the beauty of holiness

Psalm 96:9 Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. (NKJV)
Let all the earth dance before Him (Wycliffe Bible) Hebrew word "tremble" - churl meaning: to twist, whirl, dance, writhe, fear, tremble, travail, to bring forth)

Come worship the Lord God wearing the splendor of holiness. Let everyone wait in wonder as they tremble in awe before Him (TPT)

3 Hebrew words for “praise"

Yadah v21 praise the beauty of holiness
Yadah incorporates the Hebrew word yad—which means “hand”—implying the stretching out or holding out of the hands, and possibly the pointing, throwing, casting, extending or shooting out of the hands. The name Judah—meaning “praise”—also comes from this root word.

Halal v21 Praise the Lord for His mercy endures forever
This is the most commonly translated word for praise, used approximately 121 times in the Old Testament.

The grand climax of the entire book of Psalms, chapter 150, uses halal in every verse, beginning and ending this glorious worship manifesto with a resounding hallelujah! (Ernest Gentile)

Tehillah v22 ...and when they began to sing and to praise...
This is praise filled with God’s presence – something supernatural happens when tehillah takes place. Only this kind of praise can bring down the enemy
Ps. 40:3 He has put a new song into my mouth – even praise...many shall see it a fear and trust to Lord
Ps. 100:4 Enter His gates – His courts with praise
Is. 42:10 Sing unto the Lord a new song and His praise from the ends of the earth
Is 60:18 call your walls salvation and your gates praise
Is. 61:3 The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness

• Supernatural Heavenly Assistance – One Angel – Hezekiah – 2Ki. 19:35-37; Is. 37:36-38
One angel of God killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night. Sennacherib was killed by his sons when he went home.

7. As Judah, We Are Called To Encounter God’s Supernatural Presence and Revival
Ps. 76:1 In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion.

NKJV Ps. 114:2 Judah became His sanctuary, And Israel His dominion.
TPT Ps. 114:2 so that Israel, God’s people of praise, would become his holy sanctuary, his kingdom on the earth.

We are the place of His presence – this is “home for Judah people

Ps. 69:35-36 God will come to save his Zion-people. God will build up his cities of Judah, for there his people will live in peace.
All their children will inherit the land, and the lovers of his name will live there safe and secure. (TPT)

Revival Kings

Hezekiah (Jehovah strengthens) reopened the temple and brought revival to Judah
2Ki. 18:5-7 He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. 6 For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. 7 The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went.

Jehoshaphat (God has judged) Boldly followed God and set up programs to educate Judah in the Law (2Chron. 17:9)

2Chron. 17:3-4 Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, 4 but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel.

Josiah (Jehovah has healed) 16th King of Judah and great grandson of Hezekiah. He restored worship to Judah after his father and grandfather showed extreme wickedness Israel’s last good king. A great reformer

2Ki. 22:2 a very righteous king, a king who walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left
2Ki. 23:25 Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.

Both Hezekiah and Josiah were lovers of God and passionate reformers. Josiah was brokenhearted when he heard the Word of God read to him for the first time (2Ki. 23:2). God’s holiness drew him, and he decided to bring his people back to the Lord. He has great success.

8. As Judah We Are Called To Run Alongside The Lion Of Judah To Adminstrate His Kingdom On Earth
Rev. 5:14 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” ...

Judah First
Judges 1:1-2 God replied, “Judah shall go up first “.

God called the tribe of Judah to go first through the wilderness, into the Promised Land, and often in battle. This tribe was blessed with God's favor, creativity and strength. We need to know why that was, so that we can apply the lessons of Judah to our own artistic and worship ministries. There are many examples of Judah partnering with God in supernatural realms. These same blessings are available to all of God's praising people in these days. Let us shift from the natural to the supernatural; from last to first; from frustration to new layers of creativity in 2019.