

Theme: Jesus' family tree is not a list of saintly men and women, but one of broken sinners. Even the "great ones" are great only because of His transforming power and promise at work both in them and for them. That power and promise is evident in Jesus' descendants, not just in His forebears.

Background and Introduction: We all have things in our past of which we are not proud. Do those define who we are? Or is there real hope for change in us?

I. A Man with a Past

- A. Judah's family background
 - 1. Jacob's character
 - With Esau and Isaac (Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-19)
 - 2. The sad consequences
 - Troubles with Laban (Genesis 29, 30, 31)
 - 3. The Lord's constraint and compassion
 - Promise when he left Canaan (Genesis 28:12-15)
 - Humbled before Esau and the Lord (Genesis 32:9-12)
 - Holds on for the blessing (Genesis 32:26; 35:11&12)
- B. Judah's family resemblance
 - 1. Treachery and deceit
 - Shechem and Joseph (Genesis 34; 37:12ff)
 - 2. Lies and lust (38)

II. The Man in the Present

- A. Bowing to Joseph (as Joseph had been told in dreams)
 - 1. The first trip to Egypt (Genesis 42)
 - 2. Second trip to Egypt
 - Reuben's offer – his two sons lives. (Genesis 42:47)
- B. A changed man – Judah takes his stand!
 - 1. Judah's pledge (Genesis 43:8&9)
 - My life for his. Substitution!
 - 2. Judah's plea (before Joseph) (Genesis 44:33&34)
- C. God's plan revealed (Genesis 45:5b, 7)
 - Sent before you to preserve life!
 - Judah finds life and hope in the promise of God

III. A Man with a Future (Genesis 49:8-12)

Understanding Jacob's blessing on Judah

- A. Judah – the lion's cub!
 - 1. Symbol of power, rule
 - 2. Judah - a cub of the lion of Judah?
- B. Judah's kingdom promise
 - 1. Judah's rule over his brothers
 - Not Judah the man – but Judah the tribe/people
 - 2. A "lasting" kingdom
 - "The scepter shall not depart from Judah"
 - 3. With abundant fullness

IV. Our Hope And Future

- 1. Is the "past" your "present"?

- We can't blame who or where we are in life on our family, past.
 - How different is your future?
2. Do you see God's plan and your place in it?
- Judah had a specific place in God's plan of salvation
 - Have you found yours?
 - Humble yourself and lay hold of His promise.