

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## ADVENT SERIES

These questions are for the **December 24, 2017** sermon, "The Beginnings of Christmas 4." Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12) together out loud.

### SERMON OUTLINE

AS WE TRACE GOD'S BLESSING, NOTE . . .

1. The tribe chosen by God (49:8)
  - a. Jesus will come through the fourth-born (not the first-born).
  - b. Jesus will come through Judah. (Consider Micah 5:2)
2. The metaphor (lion) used by God (9)
  - a. There is another, a counterfeit, who wants to be king (who is a destroying "lion").
  - b. But through Judah comes God's true lion, Jesus Christ.
3. The royalty promised by God (10)
  - a. The scepter will not depart from Judah--Jesus will always hold the power.
  - b. Jesus will hold the power forever.
  - c. All the kingdoms of this world are temporary and weak, in comparison.
  - d. Look to God's Lion, to Jesus for salvation!
4. The future described by God (11-12)
  - a. A colt will be tied up, to be used by Jesus (even this was in Judah!).
  - b. Jesus' first coming described: Matthew 2:5-6
  - c. Jesus' second coming described: Revelation 5:5

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God, our sovereign King, is not bound to tradition. He chose the fourth born, Judah (not the first-born), as the one through whom the promise would flow. How does this provide encouragement to you if your life is not exactly "traditional"? God can still use you!
2. Based on #2, above: Satan is constantly trying to provide a counterfeit to what God is doing. God's promises are genuine and life-giving, while Satan has come to destroy. How has God made this truth clearer to you in 2017?
3. Based on #3, above: No political earthly system will either endure or provide ultimate victory. Why is it so tempting to look to the government for ultimate deliverance? How can we stop looking to government to deliver us, even while we continue to pray that our government will recognize God's laws, and legislate godly wisdom?
4. Based on #4, above: Every detail of the future is being orchestrated perfectly by God, right down to where the "colt" will be "tied" when he needs it. How does this truth encourage your heart? How does this truth bring peace to your heart? Does this truth stop some of your frenetic activity? Why, or why not?