**Building Core Strength**

**Quiet Strength**

**The Promise of a Preeminent One who Brings Blessing**

**Genesis 49:1-12**

1 *Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, “Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come.*

2 *Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; and listen to Israel your father.*

3 *Reuben, you are my firstborn; my might and the beginning of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.*

4 *Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father’s bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch.*

5 *Simeon and Levi are brothers; their swords are implements of violence.*

6 *Let my soul not enter into their council; let not my glory be united with their assembly; because in their anger they slew men, and in their self-will they lamed oxen.*

7 *Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.*

8 *Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down to you.*

9 *Judah is a lion’s whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He crouches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up?*

10 *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*

11 *He ties his foal to the vine, and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine; he washes his garments in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes.*

12 *His eyes are dull from wine, and his teeth white from milk.”*

In Genesis 49:8-12, God promises the establishment of a preeminent one who brings blessing

v. 8 *Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down to you*

3 characteristics of God’s preeminent One that demands our allegiance

1. His Unassailable Strength in Righteousness (v. 9)

*v. 9 Judah is a lion’s whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He crouches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up?*

2. His Eternal Rule over All People (v. 10)

v. 10 *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples (nations).*

3. His Abundant Prosperity (v. 11-12)

v. 11-12 *He ties his foal to the vine, and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine; he washes his garments in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes. his eyes are dull (dark) from wine, and his teeth white from milk.*