



Advent Day 9 (by Deb Bakken)

Lion

Genesis 49:8-10

"Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. You are a lion's cub, O Judah, you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a

lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. (NIV 1984)

The lion is called the King of Beasts. The lion has a strong body and a majestic walk. A lion on the African Savannah can be a dangerous creature to meet for both humans and smaller, lighter animals. The lion is in control of its habitat and has few natural enemies. You don't mess with a lion. Jacob blessed his son Judah by saying, "You are a lion's cub." Jacob reminds his son that nobody "messes with" a lion. Judah is told that his family would hold a scepter—that's a symbol of the control a king has—until the One who truly deserved it would come.

We worship a Savior who is called the King of kings. In the same way that a lion dominates all the beasts in his habitat, so Jesus rules over every human ruler the earth has ever had. Jesus especially rules in the hearts and lives of his children.

People aren't likely to walk up to you and tell you, "I am a lion cub from the family of Judah!" That is because the One who deserves the scepter has already come. Praise be to Jesus!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for being the Ruler of our hearts. Make us eager to serve you. Amen.