

Last week: Joseph had cause a stir in the family.

Although he was the youngest of the 11 brothers, the Lord (104) had given him dreams to indicate that his brothers, and even his parents, would one day serve him. And Joseph proclaimed it loud and clear. To make things worse Jacob made it clear that Joseph was his favorite and even made him a special coat/garment that proclaimed his being lifted up.

Genesis 37: 12-14: On a previous herding of the flocks, Joseph encountered the brothers not being good shepherds and quickly "tattled" on his brothers to Jacob. Now Jacob sends him out again to "see" how his brothers are doing.

Genesis 37: 15-17: Joseph goes to check up on his brothers in Shechem, where they should be, but does not find them. A man asks him what he is looking for and he says, his brothers. The man tells him they are not there but rather went to Dothan. I wonder if they sensed that "tattle-tailing" Joseph would come to spy on them in Shechem so they went to Dothan to escape Joseph's watching them.

Genesis 37: 18-20: The brothers seeing Joseph afar off are angry that he found them and conspire to get rid of their nuisance brother once and for all. And they come up with a plan to throw him in to a pit and tell Jacob that a wild animal killed him, and thus ending the chance of his dream coming true.

Genesis 37: 21-22: Reuben has second thoughts (Jacob's first born, the oldest.) about actually killing him, so he suggested to just put him in the pit figuring that he would come back later and rescue him.

Genesis 37: 23-28: The brothers, minus Reuben, take Joseph's tunic and cast him in to the pit (of despair). There is no water and seemingly no hope. Then the brothers calmly sit down and have lunch. They notice a caravan of Israel's descendants passing by who were traders carrying their goods down to Egypt and conspired to sell him to them. And, they did. For 20 pieces of silver. These 5 verses symbolically liken Joseph to Jesus: ① The brothers, aware of the notion that they

should one day serve Joseph as he had indicated to them when he told them of his dreams, resented their brother and would have been fine with his demise. Jesus' half brothers James and Jude did the same thing when they mocked Jesus' being the Anointed One, they tried to convince Him to show Himself in Judea where He was a hunted Man. (See Scripture John 7).

② The brother's sold Joseph for 20 shekels of silver. And Jesus' disciple "brother" Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

(Another thing to keep in the back of your mind is that Joseph did not cry when he was cast in to the pit. And we will see him not cry, when he is pulled out of the pit and sold to a caravan, or when he is pulled away from everything that he has ever known, or when he becomes a servant to Potiphar, or when he is falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, or when he is thrown in to prison, or when he is forgotten about by the butler.

Joseph never cries when he is afraid, angry, or uncertain.

Why? Because I fully believe that Joseph fully trusted in the Lord even though it seemed like the opposite of what he had dreamed was becoming more and more status quo!

When did Joseph cry? ① When his brothers appear before him in Egypt (42:24), ② when he first sees his brother Benjamin (43:30), ③ when he finally makes himself known to his brothers (45:2), and ④ then when he sees his father again (46:29), ⑤ following the death of Jacob (50:1) and again when all of Egypt joins Joseph in weeping (50:3) ⑥ And finally after forgiving his brothers for what they did and proclaiming, "What you meant for evil God meant for good" (50:15-17).

Moral of the story for all of us: Joseph does not cry based on his own, God given, circumstances regardless of their hopelessness. He cries tears of joy however when he has his family restored to him and tears of sadness at the loss of family members. He lives his life with a "Job mindset":

"Naked I came to the world, naked I shall return, the Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away. Glory be to God!"

Genesis 37:29-30: Scripture alludes to the fact that 106 Reuben had not been present at the actual sale of Joseph because here we see him come back to where the brothers are.

The brothers possibly seized the opportunity of Reuben's absence to hurry up and sell Joseph fearing that Reuben might "cave" and save Joseph.

Genesis 37:31-32 All of the brothers conspire to use Joseph's tunic, dipped in goats blood, to lead Jacob into believing that Joseph has perished.

Genesis 37:33-35: Jacob's heart is shattered. His mourning is so deep that if God would not have kept him alive, he would have surely died of a heart attack. He even states, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." (I will mourn till I die).

Genesis 37:36 The account is put on hold, for now, ending with the information that Joseph was sold in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh who is the captain of the guard of Pharaoh's army.

Genesis 38 is paranthetical snap shot of Judah's life and his daughter in law Tamar. And as we have noted before females, and in this case daughters, were never recorded in Scripture unless their life would be of significance to an account documented in God's Holy Word. In this case Tamar was exactly that. She was one of the 5 women who were counted in Jesus' Genealogy!

Genesis 38:1-4: Judah grows up and takes a Canaanite woman, Shua, as a wife. She bears him 3 sons; Er, Onan, and Shelah.

Genesis 38:5-7: Judah takes a wife, Tamar, for his first born Er. And the Lord finds him to evil to live and kills him. This leaves Tamar a widow who is childless.

Genesis 38:8: Even though the oldest Er was wicked, the custom was that the next closest family member who was a male, was expected to take his brother's widow and marry her in order to ① carry on the family name, and ② honor his deceased brother by doing so. This is called the rite of the kinsman redeemer and is the principle

custom that was crucial in the account of Ruth (107) and absolutely crucial for the plan of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus' case God's first born was Adam who lost the Title Deed of the earth to Satan when he chose Satan's word over God's Word. Thus, Satan became the prince of the power of the air.

Then when the King'sman Redeemer was born in Bethlehem, He would have the right to redeem (hence: Redeemer) what was lost in the Garden since He was next of kin. Jesus took back the Mortgage Deed at the cross upon His Resurrection, and He will reclaim it when He opens the seals on the Scroll during the Tribulation. (A mortgage Deed was in the form of a scroll. It had the intimate details of the property or agreement written on the inside. It was rolled up and sealed with only the parties involved and the title of the deed on the outside. This was so that anyone would see who was involved and would know who could redeem it. (Buy it back).

Genesis 38:9: Onan knew that if he had a child with Tamar, who would be heir, since he would be a surrogate son to Er, the firstborn that his own son after that would not be heir, so he didn't fulfill his duty.

Genesis 38:10: This displeased the Lord since it was not correct/honorable to refuse to honor the heirship. So, the Lord killed also Onan.

Genesis 38:11: Now Judah, fearing that his youngest would be next in line for annihilation tried to buy some time and said, "Hey must youngest is too young, why don't you wait a few years till he's older". So she stayed in Judah's household.

Genesis 38:12-14 Onan grows up but no planned wedding, then Judah's wife dies. So Tamar takes things in to her own hands since she had been wronged. She dresses like a harlot and waits by the side of the street in that seedy neighborhood for Judah to pass by with her face covered.

Genesis 38:15-19 Judah falls for her plan and she asks, "What will you give me to do this thing" and he says, "I

will give you a goat from the flock. And she replies, 108  
What will you leave me with till you send the goat from the flock? He gives her his signet ring, a chord, and his staff as collateral, till she receives the goat.

Genesis 38:20-23 Judah sends back a goat but she is no where to be found. His servant asks around and is told that there was no <sup>known</sup> harlot at that spot. So the servant returns and tells Judah that she is gone, and no where to be found. Judah is embarrassed that his identifiers (his signet ring, his chord, and his staff) are gone. And he and his servant pretend like it never happened, hoping that he would not be shamed.

Genesis 38:24 Fast forward 3 months and a servant comes to Judah and says Tamar is with child and that she must have played the harlot (since it is not from his only left son. So Judah says, bring her out and let her be burned.

Genesis 38:25-26 Tamar is brought out and she says, I am with child by the guy who gave me these. (a signet ring, a chord, and a staff) and so Judah is faced with his own humiliation. But he is righteous enough to proclaim that he is the one who did wrong by not adhering to custom and offering the 3<sup>rd</sup> son to her and proclaims her innocent.

Genesis 38:27-30 Tamar ends up having twins, when she gives birth the first one's hand pops out first and so the midwife ties a scarlet thread around his wrist so that all may know and keep track of the birth order for the birthright.

But then the arm slips back in and the other one comes out first, his name would be Perez. And Perez was the father, or would become the father of the descendants of Jesse, who was the father of (King) David. Thus Tamar was part of all 3 of the lineage descendants that the Messiah would come from. ① "From the tribe of Judah," ② "From the branch of Jesse" ③ And would rule on the throne of David. The second son, who came out first with the scarlet thread was named Zerah.