

JUDAH THE MAN GEN. 49:8-10

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The book of Genesis leads us down a long path of opposites / antitheses	
➤ Cain & Abel	➤ Noah & most humanity
➤ Abraham & Lot	➤ Isaac & Ishmael
➤ Jacob & Esau	➤ Joseph & brothers
Out of nowhere comes....Judah???	

The story of Judah:

1. Judah was born into a **problematic** family!

Genesis 29:24 And Laban gave unto his daughter **Leah** **Zilpah** his maid for an handmaid. **Genesis 29:28** And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him **Rachel** his daughter to wife also. **Genesis 29:29** And Laban gave to **Rachel** his daughter **Bilhah** his handmaid to be her maid. **Genesis 29:30** And he went in also unto Rachel, and he **loved also Rachel more than Leah**, and served with him yet seven other years. **Genesis 29:31** And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he **opened her womb**: but Rachel was barren. **Genesis 29:32** And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name **Reuben**: **for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.** **Genesis 29:33** And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, **Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated**, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon. **Genesis 29:34** And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, **NOW this time will my husband be joined unto me**, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. **Genesis 29:35** And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, **Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah**; and left bearing.

What do we find:

Polygamy	Matrimonium
Concubinium	favorites
Least favorite	Conflict, jealousy, hatred
Clueless - at least for Jacob	Using Zilpah & Bilhah
Manipulation	

Thoughts:

- We are all born into a family
- A REAL family with weaknesses, gaps, problems...
- Growing up is getting real with your real family!
- Maturity is not bringing into your family the previous generation's baggage
- & Yes, some families are much worse than others
- Perfection is not the goal but growth & health is!

2. Judah was **part of** the problem!

Genesis 37:3 Now Israel **loved Joseph more than all his children**, because he was the son of his old age: **and** he made him a coat of many colours. **Genesis 37:4** And **when** his brethren saw that their father **loved him more** than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. **Genesis 37:5** And **Joseph dreamed a dream**, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Genesis 37:11 And his brethren **envied him**; but his father observed the saying.

Genesis 37:18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, **they conspired against him to slay him.** **Genesis 37:19** And they said one to another, **Behold, this dreamer cometh.** **Genesis 37:20** Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

Genesis 37:21 And **Reuben** heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

Genesis 37:22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

Genesis 37:26 And **Judah** said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? **Genesis 37:27** Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

The apple doesn't fall / roll far from the tree!!!

Unless it does!!!

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

3. Judah had his own deep problems!

Genesis 38:1 And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. **Genesis 38:2** And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.

Genesis 38:6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was **Tamar**.

Genesis 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be **an harlot** (לְזֹנֶה); because she had covered her face. **Genesis 38:16** And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, **What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?** **Genesis 38:17** And he said, **I will send thee a kid from the flock.** And she said, **Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it?** **Genesis 38:18** And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, **Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand.** And he gave it her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him. **Genesis 38:19** And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.

Genesis 38:20 And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not. **Genesis 38:21** Then he asked the men of that place, saying, **Where is the harlot (לְזֹנֶה), that was openly by the way side?** And they said, **There was no harlot (לְזֹנֶה) in this place.** **Genesis 38:22** And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, **that there was no harlot (לְזֹנֶה) in this place.** **Genesis 38:23** And Judah said, Let her take it to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.

Genesis 38:24 And it came to pass **about three months after**, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played **the harlot (לְזֹנֶה)**; and also, behold, she is with child **by whoredom (לְזִנוּיָם)**. And Judah said, **Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.** **Genesis 38:25** When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, **By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff.** **Genesis 38:26** And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.

4. Judah now deals with the problem – in a Christlike manner!

Genesis 44:11 Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

Genesis 44:12 And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: **and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.** **Genesis 44:13** Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

Thoughts:

- This is the **CRUX** of the story
- Judah is now the leader
- Judah is a changed man
- Benjamin is caught...what will Judah do? What will the other brothers do?

Genesis 44:14 And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground. **Genesis 44:15** And **Joseph** said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?

Genesis 44:16 And **Judah** said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves...?

Genesis 44:18 Then **Judah** came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.

Genesis 44:29 And **if** ye take this also from me, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. **Genesis 44:30** Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life; **Genesis 44:31** It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

Genesis 44:32 For thy servant **became surety for the lad** unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, **then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever.** **Genesis 44:33** Now therefore, I pray thee, **let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren.** **Genesis 44:34** For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.

Philemon 17 **If** thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

Philemon 18 **If** he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

5. God elevated Judah far beyond the problems!

Genesis 49:3 **Reuben**, thou art my firstborn, My might, and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: **Genesis 49:4** Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; Because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; Then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

Genesis 49:5 **Simeon and Levi** are brethren; Instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.

Genesis 49:6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; Unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: For in their anger they slew a man, And in their selfwill they digged down a wall. **Genesis 49:7** Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; And their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel.

Genesis 49:8 **Judah**, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: Thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; Thy father's children shall bow down before thee. **Genesis 49:9** Judah is a lion's whelp: From the prey, my son, thou art gone up: He stooped down, he couched as a lion, And as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? **Genesis 49:10** The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh come; And unto him shall the gathering of the people be.