

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

So, two weeks ago we finished chapter 35 and we saw Jacob and Esau come together one final time to bury their father Isaac.

Now, we are not going to read chapter 36 because it consists of the genealogy of Esau.

You guys can go ahead and try to pronounce all the names on your own time.

However, since all scripture is given by inspiration of God, it is important to note that there is a reason that this genealogy is listed here.

You see, although God had rejected Esau (in the same manner that Ishmael was rejected), God still blessed his descendants under the promise that God had given Abraham.

This genealogy also provides us with the beginning of some of the enemies that the Nation of Israel would have to deal with later on as we see the birth of the Edomites and the Amalekites – all descendants of Esau.

So chapter 37 is the introduction to Joseph.

[Gen 37:1-36 NKJV] 1 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 This [is] the history of Jacob. Joseph, [being] seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad [was] with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he [was] the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of [many] colors. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

So chapter 37 begins the transition between Jacob and Joseph.

It appears that Jacob is making the same mistakes that his parents made with him and Esau as Rebekah showed favoritism to Jacob and Isaac showed favoritism toward Esau.

Here, Jacob shows favoritism towards Joseph.

Joseph wasn't the oldest child but he was the oldest from Rachel – and Rachel is the one that Jacob loved.

The problem with Jacob was that he wasn't discreet about the way he treated Joseph in front of the other sons – and this caused an animosity toward Joseph from his siblings.

Now, I asked you to underline that Joseph was hanging out with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah.

Remember, Jacob had in effect four wives – yet we find the sons of Leah not mentioned here at the beginning of chapter 37.

It could be that they already didn't want anything to do with Joseph because he appears to have been a snitch.

That is what we see Joseph doing here in verse two as he comes home and tattles on what his brothers were doing.

Jacob makes matters worse by making this tunic or this coat for Joseph.

Some theologians have suggested that Jacob, by presenting this tunic to Joseph was signaling to the other sons that

Joseph was going to be the one to gain the majority of his inheritance.

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told [it] to his brothers; and they hated him even more. 6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the

sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." 10 So he told [it] to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What [is] this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" 11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter [in mind].

Joseph is given two prophetic dreams, in the first dream Joseph and his brothers are bundling grain – that is what is meant by binding sheaves. In the dream, his bundle stood up and the bundles of his brothers bowed before Joseph's bundle.

In his second dream, the bundles of grain are replaced with 11 stars.

So if the first dream made his brothers angry – they must have gotten angrier when he told them about the second dream.

Not only does Joseph offend his brothers but he also offends Jacob.

Notice that Jacob mentions Joseph's mother – we were told previously that Rachel had already died while she gave birth to Benjamin – that is because this portion of scripture is not written in chronological order.

These two dreams are fulfilled at the end of Genesis as Joseph's brothers bow before him as they search for grain.

12 Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. 13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding [the flock] in Shechem? Come, I will

**send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am." 14
Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with
your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back
word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron,
and he went to Shechem.**

Now, remember that Shechem is the place where Simeon and Levi had killed all the men a few chapters ago. Shechem was a wicked city. It was a worldly place.

Here is where we start seeing the parallels between Joseph and Jesus. Remember, I mentioned on Sunday that Joseph is a type of Jesus in the Old Testament.

Here we see the father (Jacob), send his beloved son (Joseph) into the world (Shechem) on behalf of his other children.

And in response, we see the son respond in complete obedience.

15 Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?" 16 So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding [their flocks]." 17 And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan. 18 Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. 19 Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! 20 "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some

wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

Even while Joseph was afar off, the brothers conspired to kill him in the same way that the religious rulers plotted to kill Jesus.

We see his own brothers reject him the brothers of Jesus rejected Him as well.

21 But Reuben heard [it], and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." 22 And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, [but] cast him into this pit which [is] in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"--that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father. 23 So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they

stripped Joseph [of] his tunic, the tunic of [many] colors that [was] on him. 24 Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit [was] empty; [there was] no water in it.

Reuben was the oldest brother – he was the one who we saw back in chapter 35 sleep with his father’s concubine.

Reuben here is trying to be the moral leader amongst his brothers - in order to appease the other brothers, he decides to simply teach Joseph a lesson.

Reuben is probably thinking – “Maybe if Joseph is left in the pit for a while, my bros will relent on wanting to kill him.”

We can say that Reuben is a type of a Pontius Pilate.

Because that is exactly what Pontius Pilate did when the people chose Barabbas over Jesus. They wanted Jesus dead – and Pontius Pilate scourged Jesus hoping to appease the shouts of the people.

It was until after the scourging that the people and the religious rulers demanded that Jesus be crucified.

The pit is a picture of the tomb that Jesus was laid in – remember it was an empty tomb that had never had a body in it. (Luke 23:53)

25 And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry [them] down to Egypt. 26 So Judah said to his brothers,

"What profit [is there] if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he [is] our brother [and] our flesh." And his brothers listened. 28 Then Midianite traders passed by; so [the brothers] pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty [shekels] of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Their hate for brother did not deter their appetite.

As they ate, the opportunity came before the brothers to get rid of Joseph so they sold him for 20 shekels of silver.

In the same manner that Joseph was handed over to gentiles because the brothers didn't want to be held responsible for his blood, the religious rulers hand over

Jesus to the gentiles and their claim was that it was against Roman law for them to execute Him themselves – even though they were ready to stone the adulteress woman.

29 Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph [was] not in the pit; and he tore his clothes. 30 And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad [is] no [more]; and I, where shall I go?" 31 So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. 32 Then they sent the tunic of [many] colors, and they brought [it] to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it [is] your son's tunic or not?" 33 And he recognized it and said, "[It is] my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces." 34 Then Jacob tore his

clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. 35 And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him. 36 Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh [and] captain of the guard.

I find it interesting that Jacob is deceived into thinking that Joseph is dead by the blood of a kid of goats.

When it was earlier that Jacob, himself, had deceived his own father into thinking that he was Esau with the skin of a kid of goats.

[Gal 6:7 NKJV] 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

So what kind of traits do we see from Joseph in this chapter

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- The most obvious one is that he was a man of obedience
- We could say he was a man of integrity since it appears he was always acting upon his father's best interest. Even though the brothers didn't approve of his tattling – the bad reports that he brought his father were most likely justified.
- His perseverance. He was rejected and hated by his own brothers yet he continued to persevere. This is the trait that we are going to more of Joseph in the coming

chapters – no matter what the circumstances may be – he continues to persevere because God has given him a vision and because God is faithful.

So in chapter 38, we have Judah. He is also going to show some traits, however, they appear to be the opposite of Joseph.

[Gen 38:1-30 NKJV] 1 It came to pass at that time that Judah departed from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite whose name [was] Hirah. 2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name [was] Shua, and he married her and went in to her.

Here we have a problem already. Judah has just married a Canaanite. Bad judgment!

3 So she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er. 4 She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan. 5 And she conceived yet again and bore a son, and called his name Shelah. He was at Chezib when she bore him. 6 Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name [was] Tamar. 7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him. 8 And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother." 9 But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother. 10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed

him also. 11 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

During this time, it was customary that if the husband died, the eldest brother would then take the widow to be his wife and the heirs would belong to husband that died.

So Judah's oldest son Er, gets married – he was wicked and God killed him.

Onan, was the second oldest and he didn't want to consummate the marriage and God kills him also.

Shelah is the only child that Judah has left and he doesn't appear eager in giving Tama to Shelah so he sends her away to go live back with her parents.

12 Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." 14 So she took off her widow's garments, covered [herself] with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which [was] on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.

At some point, Tamar realizes that Judah has no intentions of giving her his third son – so she takes matters into her own hands.

She presents herself as a harlot or a prostitute.

During the days of Judah it was customary for the harlots to cover their face.

15 When Judah saw her, he thought she [was] a harlot, because she had covered her face. 16 Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she [was] his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" 17 And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give [me] a pledge till you send [it]?" 18 Then he said, "What pledge

shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that [is] in your hand." Then he gave [them] to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

Judah doesn't have cash so asks for credit. He gives Tamar his signet and cord along with his staff to be used as collateral.

We are already seeing a big difference between Joseph and Judah. Next week we will see Joseph flee temptation and here it appears Judah is running to temptation.

19 So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood. 20 And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive [his] pledge from the woman's

hand, but he did not find her. 21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who [was] openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this [place]." 22 So he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this [place]." 23 Then Judah said, "Let her take [them] for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her." 24 And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she [is] with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

Judah found it easy to pass judgment on someone else who had just sin the same sin that he was guilty of without first passing judgment on himself.

Sin always looks worse on someone else.

We are quick to judge others for the same sin that we commit.

[Mat 7:1-5 NKJV] 1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank [is] in your own eye? 5 "Hypocrite! First remove the plank

from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Many people have a hard time understanding the words of Jesus here in Matt 7.

This doesn't mean that we are not to judge – this means that we better not allow ourselves to be consumed with a certain sin in other people's lives if we too are struggling with the same sin.

We have to ask God for help getting rid of a sin in our lives before we help others do the same with theirs.

25 When she [was] brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I [am] with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these [are]--the signet and cord, and staff." 26 So Judah

acknowledged [them] and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.

Judah had wronged Tamar twice: once by not allowing his son to marry Tamar and also by accusing her of being a prostitute.

27 Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins [were] in her womb. 28 And so it was, when she was giving birth, that [the one] put out [his] hand; and the midwife took a scarlet [thread] and bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first." 29 Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? [This] breach [be] upon you!"

Therefore his name was called Perez. 30 Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet [thread] on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.

Here is chapter 38, we find that Judah is not a man of his word as he failed to give his son to Tamar. We find that Judah is not a very moral person as he marries a Canaanite and goes out looking for temptation.

Not only was Judah hypocritical in his actions and he was shamed for them.

Church, one of the recurring themes that we find in scripture is that God uses flawed people.

Through Judah and through his son Perez, we find the geology that leads to Jesus Christ.

The Perez listed at the beginning of Matthew chapter 1 is the same Perez who was born from the illegitimate immoral actions of Genesis 38. And yet God used him.

That should give us hope and a deeper appreciation for God's grace. All of us have things in our past which are cause for regret. But the inclusion of Perez should give us hope that in Christ, God can and does redeem us and make us useable for His glory.

Amen –

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



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