

#8 Judah | March 18, 2018

An Outline of Judah's Life

- Judah was Leah's fourth child, born before Rachel had any children. His name means *praised*. Genesis 29:35.
- Genesis 37-50 are often noted as *The Story of Joseph*, but a significant portion of this section is not chiefly about Joseph, and the story of Judah is often overlooked.
- Judah, at least in his early life, was one who used people for his own benefit.
 - Judah is the brother who suggested selling Joseph to the Ishmaelites rather than leaving him dead. Genesis 37:26-27
 - Judah left his family and married a Canaanite woman. Genesis 38:1-11.
 - He had four children. Er was killed by the Lord for his wickedness, after he had married Tamar.
 - Onan, imitating his dad's selfishness, refused to raise up children in Er's name.
 - He asked his daughter-in-law to remain a widow. Genesis 38:11
 - He used his daughter-in-law as a prostitute, then suggested she be burned at the stake. Genesis 38:16, 24
- The events of Genesis 38, from father to grandsons, takes place in a period of about 20 years. Judah is seen as a man who desperately wants to be important. At the end of Genesis 38, one would predict that Judah's life would end in disaster.
- Several analogies seem evident in the manner in which Judah's story is presented.

Esau intermarried	Judah married a Canaanite
Onan refused to honor his brother	Judah sold his brother
Joseph was sexually pure	Judah was sexually wicked
Jacob and Esau are born in competition, the younger preeminent	Perez and Zerah are born in competition, the younger preeminent

- In Genesis 42-44, the narrative of Judah changes dramatically, from a selfish opportunist to a selfless brother seeking to save his family (Gen. 44:33-34).

- Genesis 49:8-12 are fundamentally important to the storyline of the redemption narrative.
 - God promised a Redeemer to be born through a woman – Genesis 3:15
 - That promised was narrowed—
 - Through Noah to Shem (Gen. 9:26-27)
 - Through Shem to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)
 - Through Abraham to Isaac, then Jacob
 - In Judah there was the “scare” that no offspring would be provided, but in the oddest way God says, “I will provide.”
 - It was Judah, not Joseph, that would ultimately receive the honor of his brothers (Gen. 49:8).

Things you may not know

- The word *Jew* is shortened from *Judah*.
- In New Testament times, the land of Israel was named *Judah* and *Samaria*.
 - The area of Samaria was inhabited by the *Israelites*, who were descendants of the 10 tribes of Israel that established the Northern Kingdom.
 - The land of Judah was inhabited by the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
- In Hebrew the word is pronounced *Yehuda*.
- There is no judgment in the Biblical text given of Judah's sexual sin in Genesis 38.

Why is Judah one of the 30?

- Judah was given the highest honor in Genesis 49, that of holding the **scepter**, that is, he would be the *king*.
- Matthew 1:2-3, 16 tells us why Judah is so important.
- Matthew 1:21, in light of the story of Judah, is especially enlightening.