

Judah's Royal Seed

Lesson for Sunday, March 19, 2023

TEXT: Genesis 49:10

INTRODUCTION:

⇒ Our weekly review:

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| ○ Genesis 1:31 – God created it all | CREATION |
| ○ Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God's image. | CREATION |
| ○ Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all. | FALL |
| ○ Genesis 3:15 – God's promise of redemption | REDEMPTION BEGINS |
| ○ Genesis 12:2-3 – The Seed of Abraham | REDEMPTION CONT |

⇒ Often, when we describe the big story of the Bible, we use four terms: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration.

⇒ In our series, we have seen the entirety of Creation (lessons 1 & 2) and the Fall (lesson 3).

⇒ In Genesis 3:15 we read God's promise and the beginning of His perfect plan for Redemption which will climax at the Cross and empty tomb.

⇒ The promise in 3:15 is critical for our understanding of biblical history. God looked ahead in time to a "Promised Seed." We know that Seed to be the Lord Jesus Christ. In our studies, we are seeing how God was working through different people to bring about the Promised Seed.

- It began in Genesis 3 with Adam – then Seth – then Abraham (last week's lesson).
- Today we add another piece to our understanding of God's working in history.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Unlikely Candidates...

- If you are familiar with the Old Testament, you recognize names such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. These are often referred to as the Patriarchs.
- "Patriarchs" sounds important – almost like royalty! But when we dig into their stories, we see that they had some issues. These issues would seem to make them unlikely candidates for God's grand plan to save humanity!
- Suggestion: Let the class work in groups for the following people listed.
- Abraham
 - It didn't take long for Abraham's inconsistencies to be revealed.
 - Read Genesis 12:11-13. Short version: The first time Abraham sensed danger, he lied. His faith was weak! Not very assuring seeing God had chosen him "to make of thee a great nation" and to be a blessing to "all families of the earth."
 - When you read Genesis, you learn that this would not be the only time Abraham would lie so easily. It was too easy for Abraham to compromise and follow human reasoning instead of God's Word.
- Isaac
 - Abraham's son, Isaac, followed in his father's footsteps. Read Genesis 24:6-7. Sound familiar?
 - Again, when the time came to exercise faith in God, Isaac trusted in his wisdom and dishonesty instead of God.
- Jacob
 - Isaac's son, Jacob, manipulated his father and his brother (Esau) in order to get a bigger inheritance. If you have time you can read Genesis 27:18-19, 24.
 - Esau was not happy when he discovered what happened and threatened to kill Jacob. Jacob ended up living in exile for decades.
 - While he was in exile, he married two sisters because their father tricked him into marrying a different sister than the one he loved.
 - From those two wives, along with their servants, Jacob had twelve sons.

- v. Jacob loved Joseph more than the rest which resulted in his brothers selling him into slavery and telling Jacob his favorite son was dead.
 - g. Whew! Much of Genesis reads like *"The Young and the Restless!"* How could this be God's plan? And if it was God's plan, how was it ever going to work itself out?
2. But God...
- a. Remember the end of last week's lesson when God made His covenant with Abraham, and only God walked through the sacrificed animals? Do you remember what that represented? *God was binding Himself to keep both sides of the covenant. There was nothing Abraham could do to break it!*
 - b. Even though Abraham's seed was dysfunctional, God was still working. This is evident in the life of Jacob's favorite son, Joseph.
 - c. God used Joseph to preserve Abraham's line, the line of promise. Through God's providence, Joseph ascended to the rank of second-in-command in Egypt.
 - d. God used Joseph to prepare the world for a seven-year famine.
 - e. Eventually, Joseph's brothers came to buy grain and Joseph was reconciled to his family.
 - f. The story of Joseph is beautifully summarized in Genesis 50:20. God sovereignly used Joseph to spare the known world at that time – but especially Abraham's promised line.
 - g. This is a powerful reminder that *God is always working. We always have hope. God always keeps His promises.*
3. Here we go again...
- a. The key to today's study is Genesis 49:10.
 - b. When Jacob lay on his deathbed, he blessed each of his sons in different ways. But when he came to Judah, he gave a royal blessing.
 - c. If you had to pick one of Jacob's sons to be the father of a king, who would you choose? It seems Joseph would have been the logical choice. Or maybe Reuben who was the oldest. Judah makes the rest of the patriarchs seem almost saintly!
 - d. Judah's first son died without children. As was the custom, Judah's second son married his brother's widow (Tamar), but he too died childless.
 - e. Instead of Judah allowing her to marry his third son, he sent Tamar away. What happened next is hard to believe! Read Genesis 38:12-16a, 24-26.
 - f. Short version: Tamar had twins and Judah was both the father AND grandfather!
 - g. It was from this broken family line that God promised the scepter of kingship. His descendant would be the King over the nations.
 - h. So, in Genesis 49:10, we discover that the seed of Abraham is also a royal seed through whom the nations will be blessed.
 - i. *God is relentless in keeping His promises.*

REVIEW:

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- ⇒ Genesis 3:15 – God's promise of redemption
- ⇒ Genesis 12:2-3 – The Seed of Abraham
- ⇒ Genesis 49:10 – Judah's Royal Seed