

Sept 25, 2022



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

God wove even this dark chapter of Judah and Tamar's story into His story of our redemption

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Help me to see, Father, that at the heart of the matter, we're all hypocrites who need Your forgiveness

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

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  
(Gen 38:26 NKJV)

*(From "Our Daily Bread", Oct 7, 2019)*

**Series: God's Exceptional Choice**

**UNIT 2: Out of Slavery to Nationhood**

**NEXT WEEK**

**The Birth of Moses (Exodus 2:1-10)**

## The Scepter Given to Judah Gen 35:22-26; 38:24-26; 49:10-12

### Lesson Background and Introduction

At the beginning of the patriarchal narratives in Genesis, God promised to make Abraham "a father of many nations" (Genesis 17:5). From these descendants God declared that "kings will come" (17:6; see 17:16, 20). However, situations regarding offspring (see Genesis 16:1; 18:13; 30:1) and family conflict (see 16:4-5; 25:19-34; 27:1-41) arose. These situations might have led Abraham's family to doubt God's promises. Yet God remained faithful, even repeating his promises (see 35:11). Abraham's grandson Jacob fathered 12 sons; the descendants of these sons became the tribes of Israel. Scripture provides two primary methods of counting the tribes. The first method lists tribes with an inheritance of land (see Numbers 1:5-15; 2:3-32; Joshua 13-19). Under this method, Joseph's sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) were counted as tribes. The descendants of Levi were not included in this numbering of the 12 tribes since they were not to receive an inheritance of land (13:33). The second method lists tribes by the name of each tribe's patriarch (Genesis 46:8-25; 49:3-27; Deuteronomy 27:12-14; 1 Chronicles 2:2). Under this method, the descendants of Manasseh and Ephraim were instead listed as the tribe of Joseph. Through Jacob's family, God's promise of royalty would come. He would choose neither Jacob's oldest son (Reuben) nor his favorite son (Benjamin) to be the ancestor of the royal line. Rather, out of Judah would come an eternal kingdom.

Promises regarding the royal descendant of Judah were fulfilled in two ways. First, they were fulfilled through the Davidic monarchy. David, a descendant of Judah, ruled Israel in power given by God (see 2 Samuel 7:5-15). David partially fulfilled the prophecy; his rule was a shadow of the royalty to come. The second way Judah's promises were fulfilled was through the promised eternal king (2 Samuel 7:13, 16; Jeremiah 33:17; see Psalm 45:6). The Old Testament prophets looked for "a shoot from the stump of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1) who would gather all people (11:10-16). His rule would be one of peace and righteousness from the throne of David (9:7) and the tribe of Judah (Jeremiah 23:5-6; Micah 5:2). The New Testament writers interpreted these promises to apply to Jesus (see Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 1:32; Hebrews 7:14). As king, Jesus would bring salvation to the world (Luke 2:29-32). His kingdom, inaugurated at his first coming, would be fulfilled in his second coming to earth (see Revelation 2:26-27; 5:5; 19:15). Judah and his family were by no means ideal ancestors for royalty, they were marked by rivalry, strife, and dysfunction. Judah's life, in particular, was filled with unrighteous acts. He was a wreck and an unlikely choice to be the ancestor of royalty. However, God's plan of redemption is transformative. He led a dysfunctional family to become the nation of Israel. From this family would emerge the Savior of the world. He turns wrecks into royals!

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### Judah's Family (Gen 35:22-26)

#### *Sons of Leah (22-23)*

- Reuben the sexual sinner (Gen 49:3-4)
- Simeon and Levi the murderers (Gen 49:5)
- Judah blessed with leadership (Gen 49:8)
- Issachar conceived with price of mandrakes (Gen 30:15-18)
- Zebulun the warrior (Judges 4:6)

#### *Sons of Rachel (24)*

- Joseph the family savior (Gen 42:1-2)
- Benjamin the youngest (Gen 42:4)

#### *Sons of Bilhah (25)*

- Dan's descendants powerless in battle (Judges 1:34-35)
- Naphtali's descendants full of valor (Judges 5:18)

#### *Sons of Zilpah (26)*

- Gad's descendants settled east of the Jordan River (Joshua 13:8)
- Asher's descendants produced rich food (Gen 49:20)

### Judah's Humbling (Gen 38:24-26)

#### *Tamar's charged with harlotry (24)*

- Charged because of a bad original decision (Gen 38:11)
- Charged because of a deceitful plot (Gen 38:13-20)
- Charged because of crafty identity (Prov 7:10)
- Charged because of being a sinful act (1 Cor 6:16)

#### *Tamar's revelation (25)*

- Revelation because God hates lying and dishonesty (Zech 8:16-17)
- Revelation because it's the only way to be in fellowship with God (Ps 15:1-2)
- Revelation because in truth there is freedom (John 8:32)
- Revelation because only God judges at the appointed time (1 Cor 4:5)

#### *Tamar blessed with righteousness (26)*

- A righteousness that comes from treating others well (1 Sam 24:17)
- A righteousness because of God's grace (John 8:5-11)
- A righteousness that comes from trusting God's guidance (Ps 139:23-24)
- A righteousness because God counts faith as righteousness (Rom 4:5)

### Judah as Ruler (Gen 49:10-12)

#### *Blessed with kingship (10)*

- Kingship because of prophecy (Num 24:17)
- Kingship because God declared Judah His scepter (Ps 60:7)
- Kingship because it was promised to last forever (2 Sam 7:16)
- Kingship because had planned it from the beginning (Mic 5:2)

#### *Blessed with success (11)*

- Success for those who trust in God (Prov 28:25)
- Success for those who have many godly advisers (Prov 15:22)
- Success for those who commit themselves to God (Prov 16:3)
- Success for those who abide in God (John 15:7)

#### *Blessed with pleasing God (12)*

- Pleasing God must be our goal (Eph 5:10)
- Pleasing God because that is what the Kingdom of God is all about (Rom 14:13-18)
- Pleasing God because it leads to living a life that is peaceful and quiet (1 Tim 2:1-3)