



GENESIS

Preserving the Lion King Genesis 38

1. Read **Genesis 3:1-15**. In the account of the Fall we see Satan choosing the first family as the battlefield in his rebellion against God. In what ways did Satan prey on Adam and Eve's passions? How did he pit them against each other? Against God? What hope for redemption is found in verse 15?
2. Read **Genesis 38**. In what way is the seed promised to Eve in danger in this passage? Satan's strategy hasn't changed much since the garden, it has simply become more nuanced. In what ways did Satan prey on the passions of Judah and his family? How did letting their passions reign result in a failure to love each other well? A failure to honor God? How has letting passions reign resulted in failures to love well within your own family? Despite the gross and manifold sin on display in this passage, how did God work through this dysfunction to preserve the seed He had promised to Eve? How does this provide us with hope amid sinful dysfunction today? How does this provide us with hope despite our own sin?
3. Read **Matthew 1:3-6**. Given the events of Genesis 38, to say that Tamar is a surprising inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus is a massive understatement. And yet, there she sits, along with Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Why are these women surprising inclusions? What did they have in common? How is their inclusion a source of hope and joy for us? Each of them entered the family line of Jesus through an element of scandal. How do their stories pave the way for another scandalous birth at Bethlehem?

4. Read **Genesis 49:8**. In the account of Genesis 38, Judah is anything but praiseworthy. Yet here we see his father, Jacob, prophesying a future of praise among his brothers. Re-read Genesis 38:26. How might this have been a turning point in Judah's life? Read **Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9**. What does God promise to those who confess and turn from their sins? How does this change our future?
5. Read **Genesis 49:9-12**. In this prophetic passage, Judah is compared to a lion's whelp, or cub. That is, he (and the tribe that bears his name) represent a vision of the not-yet-matured plan God has for the seed that will be preserved through his family line. What is promised/foretold?
6. Read Revelation **5:1-10**. Here we see the fully matured "Lion of Judah" and the fully revealed plan of salvation, promised to Eve and foretold of Judah, on display. It has been said that the Bible should be "read forward, but understood backwards". Go back and read Genesis 38 in light of Revelation 5:5. How was God in control? How was He faithful? How was He powerful to work salvation despite the presence of sin? How might this change the way you pray or worship this week?

The Lion of Judah

by William Jefferson

1806-1870

Come, sinners, to Jesus, no longer delay;
A free, full salvation is offered today;
Arise, all ye bond slaves, awake from your dream;
Believe, and the light and the glory shall stream.

For the Lion of Judah shall break every chain,
And give you the victory again and again.

The world will oppose you and Satan will rage,
To hinder your coming they both will engage;
But Jesus, your Savior, hath conquered for you
And he will assist you to conquer them too.

For the Lion of Judah shall break every chain,
And give you the victory again and again.

Though rough be the fighting and troubles arise,
There are mansions of glory prepared in the skies;
A crown and a kingdom you shortly shall view,
The laurels of victory are waiting for you.

For the Lion of Judah shall break every chain,
And give you the victory again and again.