

JOSEPH

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD

Part 2: In Preserving His Promises
through Dark Times
May 12th, 2024
Genesis 38 (p.33)

Author: Moses with some later editors

Date: 1406BC

*Melodic Line of Genesis: Despite the failure of God's covenant people,
God's purposes and plans will come to fulfilment, not through the
faithfulness of others but through the faithfulness of God.*

BIG IDEA:

Five dark snapshots from the life of Judah which teaches us about how God can use evil to bring about His greater glory:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

IV. _____

V. _____

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share.

*[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member* by 9Marks]*

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND FURTHER RESOURCES TO DIG
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MIDWEEK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon highlights how Judah's decisions to associate with the wrong people and adopt their values led him down a path of sinful choices. In what areas of your life do you need to be more intentional about the company you keep and the influences you allow? What practical steps can you take to surround yourself with people who will challenge you spiritually and keep you accountable?
2. Judah seemed to lack principles and fear of God, giving in to temporary desires over eternal priorities. When are you most tempted to pursue fleeting pleasures at the expense of your faith? What battles do you face in keeping an eternal perspective? How can you build habits and support systems to resist those temptations?
3. The sermon notes that God's purposes prevailed despite the messiness and failures of the human characters involved. When have you seen God's grace and sovereignty overcome your own mistakes or shortcomings? How does remembering times like those build your trust in God during difficult circumstances?
4. Ultimately, the story points to how God works through imperfect people to accomplish His redemptive plan, culminating in Jesus Christ. How does this narrative encourage you that God can use your life for His purposes, despite your flaws and failures? What is one way you can cooperate with God's work in your life this week?

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DIGGING DEEPER

Resources to help you think deeper about this week's Bible message. Recommended resources are not an endorsement of all the authors have said or written.

Something to Read:

Be Authentic - Warren Wiersbe

Living in the Light of Inexhaustible Hope - Iain Duguid and Matthew S. Harmon

Joseph and the Gospel of Many Colors: Reading an Old Story in a New Way - Voddie Baucham

Something to Listen to:

One Redeeming Truth - Genesis 38:1-30 - Dr. Jordan Neal Rogers (available on YouTube)

Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38) - Dr. Austin Duncan (available on YouTube)

Working with Terrible Raw Material (Genesis 38) - William Taylor (available from www.st-helens.org.uk)

Found Out (Genesis 38) - Aneirin Glyn (available from www.st-helens.org.uk)

NEXT WEEK

Joseph: The Hidden Hand of God #3 - Genesis 39-40