

“I Am Joseph!”

Genesis 37 - 45

Bible Survey 1
Gen 37-45
9/16/26
DW

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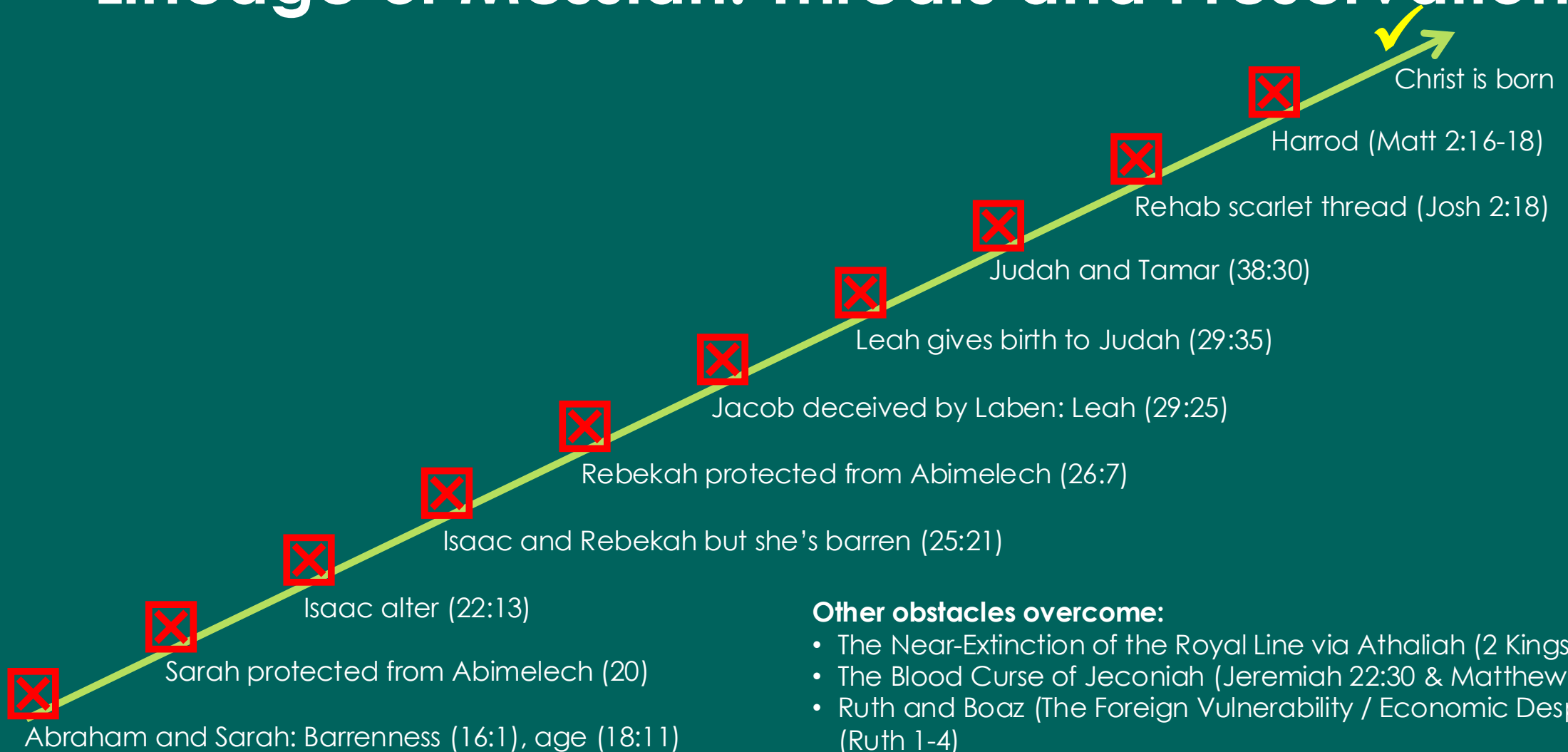
Key Points

- God is sovereign. Despite deception, hatred, dysfunctional families, human error, famine, injustice, hopelessness, “... no purpose of His can be thwarted...”
- In the darkest of times, “... God was with Joseph...”.
- The story of Joseph is cool, but there is a larger story at play.
- Bitterness is released: “... it was not you who sent me here, but God...”
- God’s promise to Abraham will not be thwarted.

Deceptions

- **Bloodied Tunic** “a wild beast ate him” (37:33)
- **Tamar** “... to whom these things belong...” (38:14)
- **Potiphar’s wife** “... he mad sport of me...” (39:14)
- **Joseph** “... disguised himself to them...” (42:7)
- **Brothers** “... we are honest men ...” (42:11, 31)
- **Silver cup** “... put my silver cup in the mouth of the sack ...” (44:2)

Lineage of Messiah: Threats and Preservation



Other obstacles overcome:

- The Near-Extinction of the Royal Line via Athaliah (2 Kings 11):
- The Blood Curse of Jeconiah (Jeremiah 22:30 & Matthew 1)
- Ruth and Boaz (The Foreign Vulnerability / Economic Despair) (Ruth 1-4)
- Bathsheba and the Scandal of David (2 Samuel 11-12)

Hatred

- **Deep Hatred (3x)** "...could not speak on friendly terms..." (37:2-11)
- **Fueled by favoritism** "... loved more ..." (37:3)
- **Fueled by Joseph himself** "... bad report (v2) ... listen to my dream (v6)..."
- **Fueled by jealousy** "... his brothers were jealous of him ..." (37:4, 11)
- **Sinful anger is consuming:**
 - Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man (Pro 22:24)
 - Like a city that is broken into and without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit. (Pro 25:28)

When is Anger Wrong?

Anger and Stress Management God's Way
Wayne Mack

- When it involves **brooding or fretting**. “Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.” (Psa 37:8)
- Keep a **running record** of how we have been mistreated. “you shall not bear a grudge...” (Lev 19:18)
- When we **pretend that we are not angry**. “... speak truth in love” (Eph 4:15)
- When we **return evil for evil or attack** the person with whom we are angry. “... a fool loses his temper” (Prov 29:11)

Reuben: First Born

- "... don't kill him..." (37:21)
- "... didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy?" (42:22)
- "... put my sons to death if I don't bring him (Benjamin) back alive" (42:37)
- Birth Order:
 - Leah bore Reuben (sin: fathers concubine, 35:22)
 - Leah bore Simeon (sin: killed men of Shechem 34:25)
 - Leah bore Levi (sin: killed men of Shechem 34:25)
 - Leah bore Judah, then stopped bearing.
 - Bilhah bore Dan
 - Bilhah bore Naphtali
 - Zilpah bore Gad
 - Zilpah bore Asher
 - Leah bore Issachar, when God gave heed to her.
 - Leah bore Zebulun
 - Rachel bore Joseph, when God gave her remembrance.
 - Rachel bore Benjamin

Joseph

- Sold into slavery in Egypt
- Sold to Potiphar (37:36)
- Trial and adversity for the benefit of others
- Joseph was sent ahead to deliver because of the approaching famine in the land. But the Lord also used the famine to reunite the family. God often has multiple purposes at play.
- Faithful in little, faithful in much (ch 39:1-6)
- Nature of Temptation: 39:10 (good), v11 (bad), v13 (good, fled)
- But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Rom 13:14
- You never know, more work (40:4), yet faithful – sees disposition of new prisoners (40:6). Do I notice others?
- Very real: “Get me out of this house” – how desperate was his situation (40:14). Am I desperate to get out of the circumstances God has placed me in?
- “I am here—by God’s appointment, in His keeping, under His training, for His time.” Andrew Murray’s Back Ache

Judah: Parenthetical Chapter 38?

- OT narrative moves scene by scene. There is a bigger purpose to what *Moses* is writing.

Old Testament Narrative Scenes

“Rather than build the story around the "character" of any of the characters, the predominant mode of narration in Hebrew narrative is "scenic." The action is moved along by a series of scenes that together make up the whole. This has been likened to the way a movie or a television drama tells a story through a succession of scenes. Each scene has its own integrity, yet it is the progressive combination of scenes that makes up the story as a whole.”

How to read the bible for all it's worth, Gordon Fee, Douglas Stuart

Judah: Parenthetical Chapter 38?

- OT narrative moves scene by scene. There is a bigger purpose to what Moses is writing.
- Judah – marries a Canaanite! Er is evil – God takes him. Onan displeases God (fails to fulfill the levirate vow), God takes his life too.
- Tamar – Judah's daughter in-law. Line of Christ (Perez, Boaz/Ruth, Obed, Jesse, David).
- “Narratives record what happened – not necessarily what should have happened or what should happen every time.” Fee/Stuart

Jacob

- Humor: “what are you staring at”, like Caltrans (42:1)
- God working behind the scenes, how will he reunite the sons, bring about repentance? Famine.
- “we are honest men” (42:11, 31)
 - Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts. (Pro 21:2)
 - Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man? (Pro 20:6)
- Fatalistic – not seeing the bigger picture:
 - “... all against me ...” (42:36)
 - “... take some figs... pistachios” (43:11)
 - “... few and unpleasant are my days...” (47:9)