



“...Cheer up, don't be afraid for the Lord has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will give you victory. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. He will love you and not accuse you...I have gathered your wounded and have taken away your reproach”. Zep. 3:17-18, TLB

YOUR CONFIRMATION: GOD ALWAYS SETS AN END TO EVERYTHING HE BEGINS

It doesn't matter how you start; it really counts more how you finish. We wouldn't fret if we could see the end God ordains. Judah—Jacob and Leah's fourth son—received a prophetic blessing from his father recorded in Genesis 49:10-12, “The scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh comes, whom all people shall obey. He has chained his steed to the choicest vine and washed his clothes in wine. His eyes are darker than wine and his teeth are whiter than milk”. Revelation 5:5, TLB shares the fulfillment of that promise: “But one of the twenty-four Elders said to me, “Stop crying, for look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, and proved himself worthy to open the scroll and to break its seven seals”. Leah interprets Judah's name as “Now will I praise the Lord”, Genesis 29:35. Strong's Concordance defines his name “celebrated”, universally known as “praise”. God is enthroned in power when you praise him. Alignment to God reproduces destiny. Praise is how we work with God to still the enemy; then the defeated foe can only be a spectator, never a devastator. What's received in the genesis of life springs forth after we receive a revelation of who we really are in the kingdom of God. In Isaiah 46:10, God speaks the climax of our story. “Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”. The middle is not your end: it's just an indicator you're half-way there. Refuse to get stuck in the middle. “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof...” Ecclesiastes 7:8.

PRESERVE YOUR GIFT OF PRAISE FROM BEING MISAPPROPRIATED

Judah's seed struggling to survive is recorded in Genesis 38th chapter: His first son, Er whose name means “watchful” and his second son, Onan, “strong” both died prematurely; their lifestyles drew a curse upon themselves. His third son, Shelah “request a petition” was isolated although promised in marriage. How could praise really thrive? We can teach what we know, but we can only reproduce what we are. Total praise is when nothing else is in our praise, except praise. Transparency always sees the bona fide object of our affection. Is it God—big “G” or little “g” we serve? Here are some ways to nurture sustainable praise so God will always be in first place: 1) Be alert as a watchman so you won't miss any moves, cues, or clues for breakthrough. 2) Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might so you won't succumb to a hope deferred. 3) Be engaging enough to fulfill every vow you made. Psalm 67 says with praise, the earth yields her increase and God blesses those who reverently fear Him. Be mindful never to defraud God of the honor that's due Him.

MAKE YOUR SENTENCE TO THE TOMB, YOUR WOMB; BE A CARRIER OF JESUS

Tamar's distinction moved Judah from going into extinction. Tamar was first married to Er but later died. Under the levirate, Onan married her, vowed to raise up any offspring in the name of his deceased brother, but he refused to impregnate her. Instead he spilled his seed. Upon his death, Judah promised Shelah to Tamar once he was old enough, but he conveniently negated his own vow. When Judah became a widower, Tamar saw an opportunity to remove the reproach of widowhood which was like death. Replacing her widow's garments with appealing apparel, she played the harlot. Having something worth fighting for, she repositioned herself along Judah's path. God opened her womb to bear twins to Judah: his fourth son, Perez means “breach” and his fifth son, Zerah, “dawn”. Zerah put out his hand first so the midwife tied a string around his hand; however, Perez was the firstborn. Matthew 1:3 Living Bible names Jesus Christ in the genealogy of Judah. “Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (Tamar was their mother);...” Unbeknown to Tamar, she was a defining link that carried the incorruptible seed, Jesus Christ, so God's plan was restored. The wait is over when you move in concert with Holy Spirit. Just stay with “praise” until your breakthrough has conceived. The reversed birth order ensures the upright has dominion over adversity in the morning. The breaking forth of dawn makes the darkest part of night, the shortest.

Thought for Transformation

God doesn't need anyone to vouch for Him. He will fight for you even if you have lost your right to appeal. God restored the levirate to Tamar because it was a covenant. “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” Num. 23:19. God's works are always done in truth you can trust. “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...” Heb 8:11,18.

Submit Indisputable Evidence

Being subject to widowhood the rest of her life and if found pregnant and unwed, Tamar would be sentenced to death. When playing the harlot, Tamar asked for and received Judah's staff and signet as a pledge to secure payment. Later, Judah challenged Tamar after someone told him she was pregnant. During the trial of her faith, she produced evidence, ending all arguments. The authority of her dominion could not be dominated because he could not contradict his own personal belongings.