

Sermon Notes

In the Darkness, Grace Breaks Through

Genesis 38

Intro: Still looking for a leader who will stand up to evil (3:15)

~~Reuben~~ (35:22, 49:4) ~~Simeon & Levi~~ (34:25, 49:5)Judah?? (49:8)

Scene 1: **Judah & his line turn from God: another rotten branch** (1-11)

- As a brother & son? (37:26)...slave traded Joseph, grieved Jacob!
- As a covenant-member? ...wanders from the family of promise
- As a husband? ...sees and takes a Canaanite!
- As a father? ...raises wicked, selfish sons
- As a father-in-law? ...fearful, unfair & deceptive to Tamar

Will the line of Judah die here?

Scene 2: **When Tamar takes desperate action to continue the line, Judah turns to greater sin and folly** (12-23)

Scene 3: **When Tamar's pregnancy is known, Judah turns out to be a blind, judgmental, self-righteous hypocrite** (24-25)

Will the line of Judah die here?

Scene 4: **Until God's grace breaks through** (26-30)

- o ...In Judah's heart: (26)
 - ➔ conviction, confession, real repentance and change!
- oIn Judah's line: (27-30)
 - ➔ Twins! Older="Red"! Swapping! (cf. 25:22-26)
 - ➔ "Break through" (Perez) and "Sunrise" (Zerah) have arrived.
- o ... In Judah's future: (Ruth 4, Matt. 1)
 - ➔ Judah & Tamar → Perez → Boaz & Ruth → David → ...Jesus!!!

Implications for us:

1. What kind of people does God save? And change? And use?
2. What kind of leader do we need? And how likely is he to naturally emerge from this line (or any other?!)?
3. But which is stronger? Human sin or God's promise-keeping grace?