

# Judah and the Tenth Generation Curse

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## I. The Promise to Judah

GEN 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

### A. The Hebrew Words

#### 1. sceptre/scepter—indicates that Judah will always be a tribe

07626 tbv shebet {shay'-bet}

from an unused root probably meaning to branch off; TWOT - 2314a; n m

AV - tribe 140, rod 34, sceptre 10, staff 2, misc 4; 190

1) rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club, sceptre, tribe

1a) rod, staff

1b) shaft (of spear, dart)

1c) club (of shepherd's implement)

1d) truncheon, sceptre (mark of authority)

1e) clan, tribe

#### 2. lawgiver/ruler's staff—the kings of Israel

02710 qqx chaqaq {khaw-kak'}

a primitive root; TWOT - 728; v

AV - lawgiver 6, governor 2, decree 2, to grave 2, portray 2, law 1, printed 1, set 1, note 1, appoint; 19

1) to cut out, decree, inscribe, set, engrave, portray, govern

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to cut in

1a2) to cut in or on, cut upon, engrave, inscribe

1a3) to trace, mark out

1a4) to engrave, inscribe (of a law)

1b) (Poel)

1b1) to inscribe, enact, decree

1b2) one who decrees, lawgiver (participle)

1c) (Pual) something decreed, the law (participle)

1d) (Hophal) to be inscribed

### B. The occasion

#### 1. Someday with Messiah

Num 24:17\* "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a sceptre will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth.

Ez 21:27 A ruin! A ruin! I will make it a ruin! It will not be restored until he comes to whom it rightfully belongs; to him I will give it.'

#### 2. Samuel's prophecy to David

2 Sam 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

Rev 5: 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

#### 3. The author of the article in *Chalcedon* (#373, August 1996) sees this as the same kingdom as that in 1Cor 15:24-28.

24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

27 For he "has put everything under his feet". Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ.

28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

- a. But, Israel is not the Body of Christ
- b. The earth is not the universe
- c. The author presupposes post-millenianism with no special place for Israel.

## II. The Problem

### A. Judah's total unfaithfulness—Gen 38

1. Marries a Canaanite—1-2
2. Judah's sons—Er, Onan, Shelah—3-5
3. Judah got Tamar as a wife for Er—6
4. Er and Onan killed by God—7-10
  - a. Onan's sin very real. Dt 25:5-6 shows the responsibility to have offspring to a man. The issue shows itself in Ruth 4:5 (by extension) and in Mt 22:23-28
  - b. Failure to do so carried a stigma—Dt 25:7-10
  - c. The whole family had a stake in the choice of a wife
  - d. This is so important for Israel since land was only acquired through inheritance. Proves dispensationalism.
5. Shelah promised to Tamar but promise not kept—11
  - a. Shelah apparently married a Canaanite. His offspring are mentioned elsewhere.
6. Judah lies with a prostitute not knowing it was his daughter-in-law—12-19
7. Tries to find prostitute to give payment—20-23
  - a. Judah thought she was a shrine prostitute
  - b. Proves he participated in paganism
8. Judah told Tamar had committed prostitution and now pregnant—24
9. They discover he was father—25-26
  - a. Birth of twins—Perez and Zerah.
  - b. They were the product of incest which was soundly condemned in the Mosaic law

### B. The problem—the Mosaic law and bastards—Dt 23:2

**KJV** A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

**NIV** No-one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

**NASB** "No one of illegitimate birth shall enter the assembly of the LORD; none of his [descendants,] even to the tenth generation, shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

#### 1. The Hebrew Word

04464 rzmm mamzer {mam-zare'}

from an unused root meaning to alienate; TWOT - 1174a; n m

AV - bastard 2; 2

1) bastard, child of incest, illegitimate child

1a) bastard

1b) mixed population (fig.)

1c) born of a Jewish father and a heathen mother or visa versa

- a. Note that children of incest were not candidates for abortion
- b. They were denied certain civil rights even though they themselves had not sinned. They could not hold office.
- c. Throughout, God is establishing what a home and morality is all about.
- d. These people reminded the assembly that sin was real and had real consequences

06557 Urp Perets {peh'-rets}

AV - Pharez 12, Perez 3; 15

Perez or Pharez = "breach"

1) twin son with Zarah of Judah by Tamar and ancestor of two families of Judah, the Hezronites and Hamulites; from the Hezronites came the royal line of David and Christ

#### 2. God's promise seemed at variance with the curse

## III. The Solution—wait ten generations. David was the first who could hold office.

Ruth 4:18 Now these are the generations of Perez<sup>1</sup>: to Perez was born Hezron<sup>2</sup>, 19 and to Hezron was born Ram<sup>3</sup>, and to Ram, Amminadab<sup>4</sup>, 20 and to Amminadab was born Nahshon<sup>5</sup>, and to Nahshon, Salmon<sup>6</sup>, 21 and to Salmon was born Boaz<sup>7</sup>, and to Boaz, Obed<sup>8</sup>, 22 and to Obed was born Jesse<sup>9</sup>, and to Jesse, David<sup>10</sup>.

#### IV. Lessons

- A. God still punishes sin even if that punishment seems unfair to us.
- B. God's rules are rules even if they seem awkward to us
- C. God still keeps promises even if that seems wrong to us.—even those promises to Israel—Rom 11:29