



Happy Father's Day

Don't be afraid to make this journey; remember when God cared for you in Egypt & in the wilderness all the way to this place - JUST LIKE a father carries his son. (Deut. 1:29-31)

JUDAH

Judah was the 4th son of Jacob. (Gen. 29:35)

The family line = Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Judah → David

1. It's not often that anyone focuses on Judah. Do you know anything about him? _Y_N
If yes, what? _____

Let's play with some dates and build a theory about his childhood up to 50 years of age. Dates are tricky in the Bible; I cannot prove too much but enjoy the ride.

2. Yes No Can you agree that people lived longer back in those days?
3. Yes No If a man lived 129-140 years, is it possible that his productive & agile years could extend at least to age 100?
4. Look up Genesis 29:34-35. Which son was born right before Judah? _____
5. If scholars are right and Judah's dad was around 60 years old when Judah was born, what kind of relationship might they have had if you consider the age difference and the Jewish cultural authority in a Biblical home? _____
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6. When Judah's dad, Jacob, cheated his brother, Esau out of the inheritance, (Gen. 27) Judah was not born yet. Do you think Judah heard the story? Yes No
7. In Gen. 28:5 - 29:29, we read that Jacob needed to leave home and get away from his brother, Esau. Judah was not born yet either. Whether Jacob talked about this with his family as the kids grew up, I don't know. How did your family handle family stories and secrets as you grew up? _____

GOING TO LIVE WITH UNCLE LABAN

It is probable that Judah & his siblings were born while his dad, Jacob, was living near and working for Uncle Laban.

8. Yes No After hearing about what Judah's grandma Rebekah did to help his dad cheat Esau earlier out of the inheritance (Gen. 28:5 - 29:29), do you think Judah might have been old enough to see his dad & his great Uncle Laban trying to cheat each other? Any comments?
- _____
- _____

9. Judah was certainly old enough when his dad, Jacob, ran away from Uncle Laban (Gen. 30-31). If you were Judah, what would you be thinking or wondering?

10. Judah was certainly old enough when his dad met his twin brother (Esau) after 21 years (Gen. 32-33). Watching his dad act the way he did, what could he have been thinking?

FAMILY SADNESSES

11. Judah's sister, Dinah, was raped (Gen. 34).

a. How did Judah react to this event? _____

b. How could this event have affected Judah's future? _____

12. Judah's Aunt Rachel died (Gen. 35). Judah probably was aware of the friction between his mother, Leah, and his aunt, Rachel all through the years. What damage could that have done to Judah? _____

13. Judah's grandpa Isaac died (Gen. 35). I don't know how much they saw of each other, but Jewish ancestors were important to the family & to the kids. How could this have affected Judah? _____

FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

- *Judah's grandmother, Rebekah, loved his dad, Jacob, more than his uncle Esau.*
- *Judah's grandfather, Isaac, loved his uncle, Esau, more than his dad, Jacob.*

14. How did that damage the boys?

a. Esau _____ (Gen. 27:41)

b. Jacob _____ (Gen. 28:5)

15. How could this have affected Judah? _____

16. Have you faced this? __Yes __No If yes, explain.

- *Jacob, Judah's dad, did the same stupid thing. He loved one son more than all the others (Gen. 37:3)*
- *He loved Joseph more because he was the child of his favorite wife (Rachel).*
- *He loved Joseph more because he became a father again even when old.*

17. Judah knew his grandfather, Isaac, had done this. Now he sees his father do it. How did this affect Judah and all his brothers? (Two things)

a. _____ (Gen. 37:4)

b. _____ (Gen. 37:4)

18. In a group, we may have attitudes and commit actions that are not good. By ourselves, we may have different attitudes & actions. Do you agree? __Yes __No

WAS THERE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT JUDAH?

- *At this point in the story (Gen. 37:18), it appears that Judah was going along with the group (his brothers).*
- *He seemed to join in and want to kill Joseph.*
- *He did not stop them; Reuben, the oldest brother, stopped them at that point.*



The Mediterranean Sea

Where Judah & his brothers grazed the family livestock (Dothan)

This is the place where the brothers sold Joseph. (Dothan)

This is where Jacob (the father of all these boys) lived. (Hebron)

19. Judah finally convinced the others not to kill Joseph. What was his reason? (Gen. 37:27)

20. Judah was still riding the fence (Gen. 37:31-35). He knew the truth, yet he joined the others to go back and lie to their father. What are your thoughts about Judah?

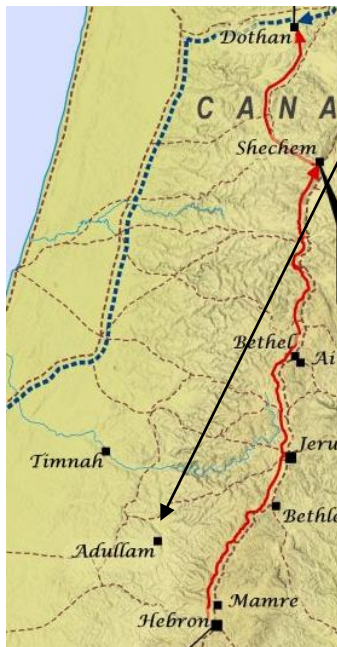
21. Yes No

Could this man, Judah, ever be a decent father after showing that he had no integrity?

22. Judah knew his dad, Jacob, was not perfect; he knew the history but still loved his dad. Somehow, deep inside, we can hate our dad yet still love him. Isn't that amazing?

Your thoughts. _____

23. Maybe selling his brother and lying to his father might have been too much to live with. What did he do? (Gen. 38:1-5) _____



DETOUR TO ADULLAM

Hebron is where Jacob lived. This is where Judah joined his brothers in lying to their father about what happened to Joseph.

- *Genesis 38:1 - "It came to pass at that time that Judah went down from his brothers, and turned in to a man from Adullam named Hirah."*
- *Hebron is in the hill country at about 3363 feet in elevation. Adullam is down the mountains in the valley at 1152 feet in elevation about 10 miles away.*
- *Adullam was a Canaanite city; probably a godless city; not an enemy of Israel yet but full of people who were not Jews & not following the God of Israel.*

24. Judah left his brothers & went to Adullam. Why? (Gen. 38:1)

25. Yes No Is it possible that Judah knew this man from Adullam already? ("A certain Adullamite named Hirah.")

• *The word "turned in" seems to indicate a specific destination to a certain address to include a prolonged stay.*

- *What did he need here? A friend? Some sex? A wife and family? Space from his crazy family?*

You sure don't have to go far to get away from the problems of the family. Judah could walk 10 miles down the mountain from Hebron to Adullam. I don't know how long Judah was there. He probably kept in touch with the family but lived his own life in a different town.

Genesis 38:2-5 - There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her and made love to her; ³ she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er. ⁴ She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. ⁵ She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him.

26. Judah got married to Shua. What happened soon? _____

His dad, Jacob, had multiple wives, lots of kids, and lots of drama. This appears to be Judah's first time to have a family. It looked like he was trying to be a good dad. He named the boys:

ER meaning "Watchful"; ONAN meaning "Strong"; SHELAH meaning "to inquire".

However, the first two sons were selfish & evil; both died. This left his wife, Shua, and his daughter-in-law, Tamar, and his third son, Shelah. (Gen. 38) His wife, Shua, died, and he was tricked into having sex with his daughter-in-law, Tamar. Two more sons, Perez & Zerah, came from that.

27. What are your feelings about Judah at this point? Is there a future for him? Gen. 38 ends with no answer to that question. _____

28. Judah saw more grief in his family. What did Reuben, his oldest brother do? (Gen. 35:22)

This is a pretty low stunt since His dad's favorite wife, Rachel, had just died.

JUDAH GIVEN MORE RESPONSIBILITY

- *The brothers did not listen to their oldest brother, Reuben, anymore. (Gen. 37:18-28)*
- *The brothers listened to Judah & did not kill Joseph. (Gen. 37:27)*
- *Judah still schemed & lied with his brothers to conceal the selling of Joseph. (Gen. 37:34)*
- *He ran off to Adullam after selling Joseph to bury the guilt & he had 3 sons. (Gen. 38:2-5)*
- *The great famine happened. Jacob sent his sons to buy grain in Egypt. (Gen. 42:3)*
 - a. *He sent ten sons. (Joseph was in Egypt already & Benjamin stayed home)*
 - b. *They probably traveled 25-30 days to reach Egypt from Hebron.*

29. When the brothers came back from Egypt to pick up Benjamin (Joseph's request), who did Jacob (their dad) trust to take Benjamin. (Gen. 42:38; Gen. 43:8)

___ The governor of Hebron ___ Reuben ___ Judah ___ Highway Patrol

- Judah had five sons: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, Zerah
- During a detour in his life, he & Tamar had Perez & Zerah. God chose the descendants of Perez to provide the men who would become the kings of Judah, to include David.

30. God chose a weak man, Judah, to become a father (ancestor) to many.

Your comments: _____

Look what Judah's own dad (Jacob) said about him on his death bed: Genesis 49:8-12

- a. *You, Judah, your brothers will praise & honor you.*
- b. *You, Judah, will be powerful & confident, and will be respected & feared.*
- c. *You, Judah, will keep control of the kingdom by your descendants until the Messiah comes.*
- d. *You, Judah, will have success, even through the tough times, and the failures.*

31. ___ Yes ___ No Would you agree that our chance to be a good father & a guide to our kids has not come to an end yet?

God has a plan for my kids as they watch God put the pieces of my life back together.