

18-19 Bible Study #4

10/2/18

Genesis 38

Judah and Tamar

Creation and Angels (Cont)

- **Nine choirs of Angels**

- Seraphim
- Cherubim
- Thrones
- Dominations
- Virtues
- Powers
- Principalities
- Archangels
- Angels

Creation and Angels (Cont)

- Three Archangels named in Scripture
 - **Gabriel** – Hero of God (Luke 1:26-38)
 - **Michael** – Who is like God (Revelation 12:7)
 - **Raphael** – God hath healed (Tobit 5)
 - *Feast Day of Archangels is September 29*
- Every person is assigned a Guardian Angel
 - *Memorial of Guardian angels is October 2*

Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel

Defend us in battle

Be our protection against the
wickedness and snares of the devil;

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;

And so then, O Prince of the heavenly host,

By the power of God, thrust into hell Satan
and all evil spirits

Who wander through the world seeking the ruin
of souls

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God,
My guardian dear
To whom God's love
Commits me here;
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard,
To rule and guide.

Amen

Feast Day: October 2

Genesis 38

- **Genesis 38:1-10**

- This odd story is not related to the story of **Joseph**
- It is about **Judah** who, unlike his father and grandfather, decided to take a **Canaanite** wife with whom he had three sons: **Er**, **Onan**, and **Shelah**
- **Judah** selected **Tamar** as a wife for his first born son **Er**
- **Er**, because of his wickedness, was prematurely struck down by God before he had a son
- **Judah** (in accordance with **Levirate marriage rite**) directed **Er's** brother **Onan** to perform the duty of a brother so that **Er's** wife would have a son

Genesis 38 (Cont)

- According to a custom of the “Levirate marriage,”¹ which was later incorporated into Jewish Law, the brother of a deceased man was obliged to marry his brother’s widow
- **Judah** directed his second son **Onan** to go to **Tamar** and perform the duty of a brother
- **Onan** knew that such an offspring would not be his so he did not consummate the relationship causing God to be angry enough to slay him as well

Genesis 38 (Cont)

- **Gn 38:11-30**

- **Judah** was now afraid as he only has one son left, and wondered what was wrong with **Tamar**
- **Tamar** was now in a difficult situation so she decided to trick **Judah**
- **Judah** unknowingly impregnates his daughter-in-law
- We will see this same issue raised to **Jesus** by the **Sadducees** in a ridiculous set of questions to test His support of the Pharisees belief in life after death (**Mark 12:18-27**)
- The answer to the **Sadducees** question (which they knew) was that she would be the wife of the 1st dead husband

Genesis 38 (Cont)

- *Tamar's* name also appears in **Matthew's** genealogy (**Matthew 1:3**)
- Many people recognize the **key players** in this genealogy, but most of the other names are a blur
- But this genealogy is like a family photo album
- Hopefully by the end of our study of the Old Testament, these names will mean something to you when they are read at **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**
Vigil Mass

Genesis 39

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Genesis 39

- **Genesis 39:1-20**

- Again we see the interchangeable use of ***Midianites*** and ***Ishmaelites***
- The Hebrew word for overseer is ***El bieath*** which, as discussed before, is an office title like prime minister
- ***Joseph*** continued to be blessed by God in his work within ***Potiphar's*** household until his master's wife took notice of this good-looking guy and tempted him to have relations with her
- He refused and eventually fled
- The jilted woman then accused him of attempted rape and caused him to be thrown into prison

Genesis 39 (Cont)

- **Genesis 39:21-23**

- God remained with **Joseph** while he was in prison and showed him “steadfast love,” **Hesed** (in Hebrew meaning mercy, or covenantal faithfulness)
- The master of the prison saw that **Joseph** was very industrious so he put him in charge of the entire prison
- We will see **Joseph** continue to be put in charge of things for the rest of his life

Genesis 40

The Dreams of Two Prisoners

Genesis 40

- **Genesis 40:1-8**

- In this story, *Joseph* hears the dreams of two fellow prisoners: Pharaoh's chief butler and his chief baker
- The butler should better be understood as Pharaoh's cup bearer – the one who ensured that his cup was full of good wine at all times
- Whenever Pharaoh called for a drink, he would taste the wine and make sure it was good and pour it into Pharaoh's cup
- This was a very important job within Pharaoh's court

Genesis 40 (Cont)

- The chief baker was not someone dressed in a white apron wearing a white top hat
- He was basically the chief cook to the Pharaoh
- A better translation would be the chief butler and the chief cook
- Both had a dream while in prison with ***Joseph*** and were distraught because there was no one to tell them the meaning of their dreams
- *Joseph* let them know that he could explain dreams so they related them to him

Genesis 40 (Cont)

- **Genesis 40:9-19**

- The butler saw a vine with three branches each producing clusters of grapes which he presses into the Pharaoh's cup
- Joseph told him that in three days Pharaoh will restore him to his position as chief butler
- The baker saw three cake baskets on his head containing baked foods but there were birds were eating it
- ***Joseph*** told him that in three days Pharaoh will execute him by hanging and the birds will eat his flesh

Genesis 40 (Cont)

- **Genesis 40:20-23**

- On the third day, Pharaoh made a feast in celebration of his birthday
- He restored the chief butler and hanged the chief baker
- Unfortunately, the chief butler did not remember ***Joseph*** to the Pharaoh as he had requested

Genesis 41

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream

Genesis 41

- **Genesis 41:1-8**

- It looks like *Joseph* spent at least two years in prison, but most likely it was much longer ²
- In the first dream, the Pharaoh saw seven fat cows, followed by seven skinny cows come out of the River Nile
- It seems strange that cows (skinny) would eat other cows (fat)

Genesis 41 (Cont)

- We then see the same sequence of events in his second dream where seven plump ears of grain are swallowed up by seven thin, moldy, rotten ears of grain
- Some earlier translations said that these were “ears of corn,” but the better translation is “ears of grain”
- Pharaoh’s counselors and magicians had no idea of what these two dreams meant

Genesis 41 (Cont)

- **Genesis 41:9-24**

- Next we see how *Joseph* came into the picture
- The butler remembered how *Joseph* interpreted his and the baker's dreams while in prison
- So Pharaoh called for *Joseph* and related his dreams to him
- He also told *Joseph* that his counselors and magicians were not able to interpret his dreams

Genesis 41 (Cont)

- **Genesis 41:25-36**

- *Joseph* told Pharaoh what God was about to do
- The two dreams, which meant the same thing, revealed that there would be seven years of bounty followed by seven years of famine in **Egypt**
- The famine would be so severe that it would be as though the seven years of bounty had never occurred
- *Joseph* suggested that Pharaoh select someone who was wise, could interpret dreams, and knew how to deal with the economic problems by saving grain during the seven years of plenty

Genesis 41 (Cont)

- **Genesis 41:37-44**

- Again we see the term “over the house” (*al bayit*)³
- This is a title for the head servant within a house
- Later, we will get an understanding of this office from **Isaiah 22** which will set the stage for **Jesus** imposing it on *Peter* in **Matthew 16**
- We also see **Jesus** use this imagery in a story in **Luke’s** gospel about a servant being put in charge of a household when the master goes away

Genesis 41 (Cont)

- **Peter** asked the Lord if this parable applied to everyone or just the disciples
- **Jesus** made it clear that **Peter** was his *al bayit*
- This will come up again in the **Book of Acts** also written by **Luke**
- At this point, Pharaoh placed **Joseph** over all of **Egypt**

Genesis 41 (Cont)

- **Genesis 41:45**

- Right in the middle of this story, we find a very important detail
- **Joseph** married the daughter of an Egyptian pagan priest (not a priest of the people of God)
- This will later produce a major problem for the Hebrew people at the time of the division of the kingdom into Israel (10 tribes in the North) and Judah (2 tribes in the South)

Genesis 41 (Cont)

- **Genesis 41:46-57**

- *Joseph* stored up the grain during the seven years of plenty
- We also are informed that *Joseph* had two sons and that *Manasseh* was the **first born** with *Ephraim* being born second
- This will be revisited during the blessing of the first born later in **Genesis**
- Finally, we see that this famine spread throughout all the earth