

STRANGE FRUIT

²⁷ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁸ As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand; so the midwife took a scarlet thread and tied it on his wrist and said, "This one came out first." ²⁹ But when he drew back his hand, his brother came out, and she said, "So this is how you have broken out!" And he was named Perez. ³⁰ Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out. And he was named Zerah.

Genesis 38:27-30

¹² "Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

Ruth 4:12

- I. Midwives, be aware in the next while. Expect oddities on the birthing stools.
 - A. God is going to shock the midwives that have seen everything.
 - B. God is currently correcting a lot of sincere mislabeling that has caused a lot of confusion in our lives.
 - C. Influential people in our lives can mislabel us and harm the unique work God is doing in our lives.
 - D. When Perez was born, the midwife said this is not normal; in fact this is impossible.
 - E. Midwives are present to another in the time of their greatest vulnerability.
 - F. Midwives must always withhold their own projections so as not to disturb the unique process of labor and birth.
 - G. Midwives must be able to see someone else completely blessed yet walkaway satisfied.
- II. When God's work seems out of order to you / Smile, adjust, and flow!
(Matthew 11:3-6)

³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" ⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

- A. John the Baptist completely misunderstood the order of Jesus's messianic ministry.
- B. John was expecting the immediate judgment of God to fall upon the world.
- C. John's misunderstanding had him on the brink of becoming very offended with Jesus.
- D. Clear your heart of any offense with regard to the order and timing of all God's works in your life.

III. When God crosses his arms. (Genesis 48:13-14)

¹³ And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel's left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel's right hand, and brought them close to him. ¹⁴ But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

- * Don't resist God's choices or God's order, because he knows everything.
- * We must always subject all of our most cherished expectations to God.