

A SEASON OF EAR TINGLING - JUDAH

¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle.”

I Samuel 3:11

⁸ “Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons will bow down to you. ⁹ You are a lion’s cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness--who dares to rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. ¹¹ He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.

Genesis 49:8-12

I. Judah was the 4th child of Leah and Jacob. (Genesis 29:35)

³⁵ She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

A. Judah was born after an extended season of his mother trying to manipulate his father, Jacob, to love her.

B. Her first son was Reuben, which means “see a son”. Now Jacob will love me as he loves Rachel; he did not.

- C. Her next son was Simeon, “The Lord has heard me” - another son. Surely Jacob will now love me as much as he loves Rachel; he did not.
- D. Her third son was Levi, “Joined in Harmony.” Surely now Jacob will love me as much as he does Rachel; he did not.
- E. Her fourth son she named “Praise.” With Judah’s birth, Leah quit competing with her sister, and there was a new peace and a new beginning.

It’s time of new beginnings for you.

II. Judah’s sins

- A. He sold his brother, Joseph, as a slave. (Genesis 37:26)
- B. He broke his father’s heart with a lie. (Genesis 37:31-35)
- C. He left his home and moved to forbidden Canaanite land.
- D. In Canaan he became unequally yoked with a Canaanite woman. (Genesis 48:1)
- E. He had two sons who were so wicked God killed them. (Genesis 38:7-10)
- F. He slept with a prostitute. (Genesis 38:12-16)
- G. He committed incest with his daughter-in-law. (Genesis 38:12-23)
- H. He was a hypocritical and judgmental fool. (Genesis 38:24-30)

III. Judah repents.

- A. Judah pledged his life in place of Benjamin; he was willing to lay down his own life for his family. (Genesis 43:7-10)
- B. Judah offered himself as a slave. (Genesis 44:33)

- C. Judah confesses his sins to Joseph and makes things right. (Genesis 44:16)
- D. Judah speaks for the whole group, identifying with all of their sins, and takes full responsibility for everything. He finally puts all of them ahead of himself.

IV. Three traits of Judah / Praise, Power, Prosperity.

A. Praise. While Judah awaits his sins to be found out, he is promoted to preeminence above all Jacob's children.

1. Judah is the first tribe to fight the Canaanites after Joshua's death. (Judges 1:1,2) The battle ends in victory for Judah. (Psalm 18:40)

[Jdg 1:1-2 NIV] ¹ *After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the ² LORD, "Who of us is to go up first to fight against the Canaanites?" LORD answered, "Judah shall go up; I have given the land into their hands."*

[Psa 18:40 NIV] ⁴⁰ *You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes.*

2. Judah has preeminence. He is first in numbers, first in territory, first in marching order, first in standing before the tabernacle.

Prophetic summary ———

You will now be praised above your fellows. You will now go where you are celebrated, not where you are tolerated.

B. Power. Jacob compared Judah to a lion's cub, a lion, and a lioness. (Genesis 49:9) Who would dare rouse a lion when he is resting after feeding on the kill, or a lioness while

she's guarding her cubs? Rest, laying down in peace, safety, and digestion marks your new season.

⁹ You are a lion's cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness-- who dares to rouse him?

1. Judah's complicated past turned him into a ferocious lion. So has yours!
2. His hand would be securely on the neck of his enemy as absolute boundaries turn into victories. It's a time for diamond boundaries.
3. As a lion, the fear of Judah came upon all of his enemies.
4. A lion can jump 36 feet; he can run 50 mph; he walks on his tiptoes; he plans strategies; he is unpredictable; he can eat 30% of his own bodyweight in one sitting; his roar can be heard 5 miles away. His sense of sight is his most important asset.

Prophetic summary——

From now on no one will steal your prey. Anything God has ordained for you will come to you. You will maintain what's yours in a safe place of peace and security.

Unspeakable tranquility is going to be your theme moving forward. As surely as Jesus-messiah is the lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5) and was unrecognized by those closest to him, those closest to you will have a hard time recognizing the changes that have occurred in your lion-like boundaries.

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.”*

C. Prosperity. In the sense of overall fruitfulness in every direction unknown before now.

1. Judah’s prosperity was seen to be ridiculous. He was seen as binding his donkey to the choicest vine. So immense was the productivity and fruitfulness of the land that a donkey could be tied almost anywhere; an unclean donkey, which would certainly eat everything in sight and then run away to eat the rest. Wine, the symbol of prosperity and blessing, will be so plentiful that even the choicest vines will be put to such everyday use as tethering animals of burden. Vintage wine will be so common as to be scrub water for washing.
2. Judah’s eyes would sparkle with wine and his teeth would be white stained with milk.
3. Nobody in the Old Testament would use a choice vine as a hitching post for his donkey. This describes a season so wealthy and the people so prosperous that they can do outrageous things and not worry about the consequences.
4. Isaiah 55:1 Milk and wine is the food of lovers. God offers choice, intimate food and drink for free.

¹ *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”*

Prophetic summary——

This is a fruitful season. We need to begin to plan to do things as though God has given us the promise that we cannot fail. The intimacy of this season is unparalleled. You will eat wine and cheese, and feed others with wine and cheese.