

A SEASON OF EAR TINGLING – REUBEN

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

³ “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, the first sign of my strength, excelling in honor, excelling in power. ⁴ Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel, for you went up onto your father’s bed, onto my couch and defiled it.”

Genesis 49:3-4

- I. Only God can bring ear tickling testimonies that will surprise you and yet make His enemies tremble.
 - A. Ear tickling works are things not in our plans.
 - B. Ear tickling works are not conceivable to us.
 - * Like killing what can’t die, or blessing that which can’t bear a blessing
 - C. Ear tickling events make a star out of whoever they’re revealed to.
 - D. Noah was astonished when given an inconceivable task.
(Genesis 6:7-22;7:1-24;8:1-22)
 - E. Mary was astonished when given an inconceivable word.
(Luke 1:26-37)
 - F. It was an ear tickling work when Sarah, at 90, and Abraham, at 100, were told they would have a child.
(Genesis 21:2-7)

II. We are entering a Reuben season.

- A. Reuben was exposed at the moment he thought he was going to be crowned.
- B. An old sin Reuben had committed 40 years earlier finally caught up with him. (Genesis 35:22; Numbers 32:23) All sin not under the blood will be brought public. Reuben committed rape, incest, and adultery all in one act. It wasn't a subtle or small thing. He slept with Jacob's common-law wife, Bilha, the mother of Dan and Naphtali.

[Gen 35:22 NIV] ²² *While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his father's concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard of it. Jacob had twelve sons:*

[Num 32:23 NIV] ²³ *"But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out."*

- C. Reuben, as the first born, had the position of preeminence above all of his brethren. The birthright was his; the priesthood was his; and the kingdom was his.
- D. Due to his sin, the birthright went to Joseph, the priesthood went to Levi, the kingship went to Judah. It was an incalculable loss. God is currently dividing the spoils of Reuben.
- E. In his bubbling over with pride, he no longer had anything of note to be proud of. He sought to supplant his father as a leader of the people. It did not work!
- F. What God curses can never excel. Good news of comfort to God's precious children.

G. The elements, themselves, fight against the enemies of God. (Judges 5:20)

²⁰ From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.

H. Reuben's birthright went to two boys whose birthright had been reversed. (I Chronicles 5:1-2)

¹ The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (he was the firstborn, but when he defiled his father's marriage bed, his rights as firstborn were given to the sons of Joseph son of Israel; so he could not be listed in the genealogical record in accordance with his birthright, ² and though Judah was the strongest of his brothers and a ruler came from him, the rights of the firstborn belonged to Joseph)--

I. Nothing of excellence proceeded from Reuben – no prince, prophet, priest, king, or judge.

J. Yet, Dathan and Abiram were of the tribe of Reuben who gave leadership in the rebellion of Korah against Moses, in which thousands died. (Numbers 16:1)

¹ Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites--Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth--became insolent

K. The tribe declined in numbers between the exodus and the promised land. They moved from 7th to 9th place. (Numbers 1:20-21;2:11;26:7)

L. Moses was concerned about them. (Deuteronomy 33:6)

⁶ "Let Reuben live and not die, nor his people be few."

M. The tribe of Reuben settled on the east side of Jordan, and their army refused the call of Deborah and Barak against the Canaanites. (Judges 5:15-16)

¹⁵ The princes of Issachar were with Deborah; yes, Issachar was with Barak, sent under his command into the valley. In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart. ¹⁶ Why did you stay among the sheep pens to hear the whistling for the flocks? In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart.

N. The tribe of Reuben was the first to be taken captive by the Assyrians.

III. Good news for Judah.

A. God is moving all the chess pieces on his game table.

B. As Reuben was removed, Judah was exalted.

C. If your sin is put under the blood of Jesus Christ, you have nothing to worry about. (I John 1:9)

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

D. Don't believe the devil's lie that you are cursed by God. The cross of Christ has changed everything for you.

E. God is doing all the heavy lifting and placement. We can just relax and watch.

F. Prepare to hear some things from God that are inconceivable to you.