### LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1. 02 December '18 — Genesis 25:27 — The Deceiver  
2. 09 December — Genesis 28 — Not Alone  
3. 16 December — Genesis 29-30 — Family?  
4. 23 December — Luke 1 — Christmas Message  
5. 30 December — Genesis 30-31 — Home!  
6. 06 January '19 — Genesis 32 — Transformed  
7. 13 January — Genesis 33 — Reconciled — Sort of  
8. 20 January — Sanctity of Life 2019 — Protect and Save  
9. 27 January — Genesis 34-36 — Assurance  
10. 03 February — Genesis 37 — Accept It  
11. 10 February — Genesis 38-39 — Tempted  
12. 17 February — Genesis 40-41 — Opportunity Knocks  
13. 24 February — Genesis 42-50 — Reunited  

### INTRODUCTION

- Judah gets his daughter-in-law, Tamar, pregnant. God eventually established explicit laws forbidding fornication, adultery, and familial sexual relationships. 
- However, Judah’s younger brother, Joseph, understood God’s moral laws for sexual behavior without needing to have explicit laws written down. Where did he get such insight? It had to come from his dad.

### Passage: Judah Gets Tangled Up with Canaanites

**Genesis 38:1-11**

- vv8-10. Why was it deadly for Onan to “waste his seed on the ground”? Is it a sin today? 
  
  - This was applicable to Israel only  
  - Israel was specifically chosen by God, and they had a direct mandate to multiply. 

- Having a proven lineage was crucial for clan rights to the land and especially for priests and Davidic kingship. 

- Men often had multiple wives to fulfill this mandate. 

- Polygamy is not God’s preferred approach, but He worked with sinful man and their cultural norms. 

- Women, thru divorce, could go from one man to another in a sequential fashion, but it was an abomination to go back to a previous husband. 

- Possibly to prevent wife-swapping and “Who’s Your Daddy” syndrome. 
  
  - Deut 24:4

### Passage: Tamar’s Deception

**38:12-30**

- v24. Judah wanted Tamar to be burnt w/ fire, possibly indicating she was a daughter of a priest. 
- Lev 21:9

- Some ancient Hebrew texts state Tamar was the daughter of Melchizedek, but this is not provable. 

- Tamar was in all probability a Canaanite, as was Rahab, so Jesus had a double dose of foreign blood. 

- Remember: Canaanites were to be utterly destroyed with no mercy for their wickedness. 
  
  - Deut 7:1-2

- Tamar was an ancestor of Jesus, but Tamar was not married to Judah. She just had a 1-night fling with him. 

### Passage: Jesus’ Lineage Included Some Unique Women

- Tamar, probably a Canaanite, had a 1-night fling with her father-in-law, Judah, who told her she was a prostitute. 

- Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute. In Rahab’s day, Canaanites were to be totally wiped out by the Jews. 

- Ruth, a Moabite, was descended from Lot’s incestual relationship with one of his daughters, Moabites were forbidden from entering the Temple for 10 generations. 

- Bathsheba (possibly a Hittite like her husband, Uriah) was in an adulterous relationship with King David. 

- Athaliah was King Ahaziah’s mother. She was Ahab’s & Jezebel’s daughter, giving Jesus Philistinian blood. 

- Mary was hailed by an angel as “highly favored.” 

  - Conclusion: Jesus’ ancestry was just as chaotic as many of ours with adulterers, prostitutes, and one-night stands; yet God is willing to save & use us whether we are born in wedlock, out of wedlock, or in a test tube. 

### Passage: Joseph Was a Hunk and He Had a Midas Touch

**39:1-6**

- vv1-5. God was with Joseph, and Potipher recognized God’s hand was on him. 

  - Prov 16:7

- Do our families, friends, and co-workers see God’s hand on us? In what ways? 

  - Material Blessings? 

  - Spiritual Maturity? 

  - Other areas? 

- v6. Joe got his good looks from his mom, Rachel, who was “beautiful in form and face.” (Gen 29:17), & G’ma Rebekah who was “very beautiful” too (Gen 24:16). 

### Passage: Joseph Flees Temptation, But Pays the Price

**39:11-20**

- v17,18. The spirited woman sought to harm the man she wanted to take to bed. The good may get punished for doing the right and noble thing. 

  - Pr 17:15, 26

- Potipher doesn’t have Joseph executed, but instead, puts him in, not just any prison, but in the King’s prison probably a light security prison for white-collar crimes. 

- It’s possible Potipher didn’t exactly believe his wife, but he was forced to do something.

### Passage: God Was with Joseph Even in Prison

**39:21-23**

- Joseph exemplified what Peter stressed about being unjustly condemned, enduring it faithfully, and receiving God’s favor from it. 

  - 1Peter 2:20

- Do we faithfully endure false accusations, or do we retaliate, fight back, and put it on Facebook? 

- BUT, like Paul, know when it is appropriate to appeal to Caesar – though you still might go to jail.

### CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Do we need to have the Bible to know right from wrong? Or does it apply to everyone? 

  - 1Peter 2:23

- Also, if we find ourselves being tempted to sin, have we planned out how to respond? 

### NEXT WEEK: Genesis 40-41.

Joseph’s ability to interpret dreams gets him a royal hearing which changes his life forever.