

THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH

Genesis 38:1–39:23

Key Verse: 39:21

1. How is Judah's life described (38:1–5)? What happens to his first two sons (6–10)? How does he handle Tamar (11)? When his wife dies, what does Tamar do (13–14)? How does Judah behave (15–16a)? What pledge does Tamar secure, and what happens (16b–19)? What happens to the goat and the pledge (20–23)?
2. In three months, what news does Judah get, and what does he say (24)? What paternity evidence does Tamar produce, and how does Judah respond (25–26)? What happens during her labor (27–30)? What does her inclusion in the covenant blessing of Abraham tell us (cf. Mt1:1–3a)?
3. In Egypt, what initially happens to Joseph (39:1)? Imagine what his life as a slave in a foreign land was like. What does the phrase "The LORD was with Joseph" (2a) mean? What does his master see and do (3–4)? How else is God's blessing described (5–6a)? What lessons can we learn here?
4. How is Joseph tempted (6b–7)? What does he tell his master's wife (8–9), and how does he persist (10)? What happens one day (11–12)? What story does she tell the men of her house (13–15) and her husband (16–18)? What happens to Joseph, and how might he have felt at this time?
5. Read verse 21. What can we learn here about God? What is Joseph appointed to do in prison, and why (22)? What is the outcome (23)? In these two chapters, compare and contrast Judah and Joseph; what is God doing in the lives of these two men?