

BREAKTHROUGH And REDEMPTION Are Coming

SING, O barren, you are about to give birth to that which you have longed for; Isaiah 54:1-4. The woman Tamar, was a childless widow. She was married twice and promised a third husband, but her promise did not become a reality. Tamar is a type of the Church, one who became desperate in her desire to produce a “son”, even to the point of becoming a “veiled prostitute”; Genesis 38:14-15. She was the daughter-in-law of Judah (name means “praise”), and like the Church, has endured seasons of reproach, barrenness and rejection. Tamar has suffered some things partly because the “men” in her life have failed to fulfill their responsibilities, leaving her a childless widow; see Genesis 38:1-30. Her natural and spiritual “fathers” (those who raised her), have at times, failed in their responsibilities. Her “husbands” (that with which she has been intimate), were displeasing to the Lord, and therefore were “cut off” from her life; Genesis 38:7-10. These former husbands could not produce the “promise”:

1. “Er”, who was of Canaanite and Hebrew descent, was a wicked man, whom God killed because of his sins (He cuts off the sinful mixture); Nehemiah 13:3.
2. “Onan”, who “spilled his seed” on the ground, did not want Tamar to bear children, nor did he want the responsibility of raising them; Psalm 127:3-5. Onan was also slain by the Lord (He cuts off the disobedient).

Tamar, like the Church, has been desperate for a child, a “son”: a Holy Spirit-filled ministry; an inheritance; a promise fulfilled. Eventually the “Woman” becomes pregnant by a “Man” (Judah, “praise”; Jesus is from this tribe), who gave three TOKENS (signs) to her, which are a mark or pledge of HIS IDENTITY; Genesis 38:18:

1. A signet – symbolic of His kingly authority; a seal of the Holy Spirit or “power of attorney”; Haggai 2:23; 2 Corinthians 1:22
2. Bracelets – symbolic of His beauty; “adornment” with gifts for His Beloved; Genesis 24:22-38; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
3. A Staff – symbolic of His government, sceptre, rod, order and guidance of a Good Shepherd; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 12:5

At the appointed time, Tamar becomes pregnant with twins; for her shame, she came to possess “double”; Isaiah 61:7. When she became intimate with “Judah” (when the Church comes to know HIM intimately, true PRAISE and worship; John 4:23-24), she produces a DOUBLE PORTION; Zech. 9:12. Tamar gave birth first to Pharez, whose name means “breaking forth” (breakthrough), and then Zarah, who had a scarlet thread (symbolic of the blood) tied upon his hand, whose name means “dawning”, “rising of light” (day of redemption). BREAKTHROUGH comes before REDEMPTION!

Before the Church can “break through” it must first “break off” some things:

- a. A previous form (designed by men) and traditions (established by religion) which were conceived by an “old order” or past generation; Mark 7:8, 9,13. These things are dead now.
- b. An outdated wineskin, which is inflexible, and therefore, unable to stretch beyond a previous move of the Spirit, a previous structure, or its own boundaries; Luke 5:37.
- c. Old patterns (designs, habits), that which is inconsistent with the biblical standard, the pattern given on the Mount; Hebrews 8:5. The Word, Who is the last Adam, is the Pattern; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.

d. A stagnant mindset, the result of false doctrine, theories and fables, which cloud and distort the thinking. A mind that is not renewed by truth cannot grasp the concepts of God's Kingdom, nor will it move by faith, with the Cloud of His presence; Romans 12:2.

A union with that which is "dead", forbidden or defiled, cannot give birth to God's promise. A sinful mixture (Er) cannot produce God's blessing, neither will disobedience (Onan) produce a manifestation of the Kingdom. The pattern is this: when the mixture and the disobedience are cut off, when there is a union (joining with) "praise" (Judah), there will be a change. Having worn her widow's garments of mourning for an extended period of time, finally twins, a "double portion" was granted to her; Genesis 38:27. This is based upon the desire for, and the pursuit of inheritance on Tamar's part. Like the Church, Tamar's desires may have been noble or honorable (to perpetuate the "father's" name), but her methods and ways have been immoral at times, not unlike the practices of the heathen nations. Yes, Tamar, like the Church, has to some degree or another, been guilty of playing the harlot. The influence of an ungodly culture has pressed upon us all, and our actions at times, have betrayed our First Love; Revelation 2:4. Our methods have been inconsistent with God's nature; we have denied by our actions and our speech the very One whom we claim to represent.

But God by His divine election, and by His sovereign choice, has extended mercy to us; Romans 8:29-30. He sees the desperate desire of His Church; He has also discerned the failure on the part of some "fathers and husbands" in fulfilling their proper roles. But our faithful, covenant-keeping God has already planned our restoration. He has already taken the necessary action to salvage that which is His. The "Woman's" desire has been to produce a true extension of the Father, a true move of the Spirit, a ministry that truly resembles Him. And God has perceived those intentions and motives. Tamar, in the culture of that day, took a great risk, placing herself in danger; she could have been killed for her actions, simply in her desperation to obtain a promise. She was willing to take drastic measures to obtain her inheritance and God knew this.

SIGNS are given to those who are intimate with Him. HIS IDENTITY shall be revealed through a people who are given a double portion; 2 Kings 2:9. They shall "break through" every obstacle in glorious victory (a triumphant church), and then "redemption" follows. Jesus is restoring His true Church, removing the reproach like Tamar, who was named "upright, palm tree" from the day of her "birth"; John 3:6-8. She has been given a divine seal, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Kingdom authority: the pledge of her inheritance; Ephesians 1:12-14. Though her background was one of disgrace and humiliation, she became an instrument to extend God's victory and enlarge His praise (Judah), thereby ensuring the lineage which produced the Messiah; Matthew 1:3. Jesus takes the "clay" of reproach into His hands, and fashions it into His glorious workmanship. From the union of the Spirit and human flesh, a DELIVERER is produced, and this "child", the son of the "Woman", obtains a glorious inheritance: He is "caught up" unto God, and to His throne! Revelation 12:5.

