

## BREAKTHROUGH AND REDEMPTION ARE COMING

Sing, O barren, you are about to give birth to that which you have longed for all of your life! The woman Tamar, was a childless widow. She was married twice, was promised a third husband, but her promise did not become a reality. Tamar, the “Woman”, is a type of the Church, one who became desperate in her desire to produce a “son”, to obtain an inheritance, even to the point of utilizing deceit and adultery, by becoming a “veiled prostitute”; see Genesis 38:14-16.

Tamar was the daughter-in-law of “Judah” (praise), and like the Church, she has endured seasons of reproach, barrenness and rejection. The woman, Tamar, 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).

Like Tamar, the Church has been desperate for a child, a “son”: a Holy Spirit-filled ministry; an inheritance; a promise fulfilled. Scripture records that this “Woman” becomes pregnant by a “Man” (Judah: “praise”; Jesus is from this tribe), who gave her three TOKENS (signs), 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, an instrument employed by a Good Shepherd; Hebrews 1:8; Revelation 2:26-27; 12:5

Tamar became pregnant with twins; for her shame, she came to possess “double”. Scripture records that restoration follows an extended season of loss and humiliation. When Tamar became intimate with “Judah”, when the Church comes to know Him intimately, through true PRAISE and worship; John 4:23-24, she produces a DOUBLE PORTION. 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). The mixture and the compromise must be cut off from the Church before she can become the recipient of God’s promises.

Before God’s people can “break through” they 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 are dead, expired.
- 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. The sinful patterns and behavior of the “first Adam” (the old man, our old identity), who walks after the flesh, must be removed. God’s people must “put on Christ”, (the new man, our new identity), who walks after the spirit.

d. A stagnant mindset, the result of false doctrine, theories and fables, which cloud and distort the thinking. A mind not renewed by revelation 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 biblical pattern is this: when sin and 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 Tamar. This was 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. Tamar, like God’s people, have to some degree or another, been guilty of playing the harlot. The influence of an ungodly culture has pressed in 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 Heavenly Father 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 genuine 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 follow those who believe, who enter into intimacy with Christ. Through these, His identity is revealed. The overcomer “breaks through” the trials, testing and tribulation of this present age, into glorious victory, and then “redemption” follows. Jesus restores those who are His, removing the reproach as with Tamar, who was named “upright (righteous), palm tree” from the day of her “birth”; John 3:6-8. The righteousness of Christ is imparted to the Church by faith; 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 womb of the “Woman”, the overcomer emerges. The Church will sing when Breakthrough and Redemption comes forth!

“And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb”; Genesis 38:27

“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more”; Isaiah 54:1-4

“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before”; Job 42:10

“Turn you to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope; even today do I declare, that I will render double unto thee”; Zechariah 9:12

“For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double; everlasting joy shall be unto them”; Isaiah 61:7