

Adam & Eve

Noah

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

?

Why Did  
God Choose  
Judah?



# Why Did God Choose Judah?

- Proposes selling Joseph (Gen. 37:26-27)
- Incident with Tamar (Gen. 38)
  - Marries Canaanite woman (v. 2)
  - Has evil sons (vv. 3-10)
  - Makes empty promise to Tamar (vv. 11-12)
  - Turns aside to prostitute (vv. 13-19)
  - Selfishly concerned about reputation (v. 23)
  - Blatant, blind hypocrisy (vv. 24-25)
  - Finally comes face-to-face with his own wickedness (v. 26)
- Compare Joseph's faith (Gen. 39)



# Why Did God Choose Judah?

- Why not choose Reuben?  
(Gen. 35:22, 39:3-4)
- Why not Simeon or Levi?  
(Gen. 34, 39:5-7)
- But why *JUDAH???*
  - The Bible doesn't gloss over, explain away, justify, or hide the faults of God's people
  - Genesis 38 is Judah's turning point – his humiliation brings transformation (do Reuben, Simeon, or Levi ever repent?)



# Why Did God Choose Judah?

- Joseph's brothers come to Egypt for food, but cannot return without Benjamin (Gen. 42)
  - Reuben's offer is refused (v. 37-38)
- Judah offers himself as a guarantee for Benjamin's safety (Gen. 43:1-11)
  - Hints of Judah's changed character
  - Jacob trusts this former liar!
- Joseph tests his brothers by framing Benjamin as a thief (Gen. 44)



# Why Did God Choose Judah?

- Judah's speech (Gen. 44:14-34)
  - Confession of guilt (v. 16)
  - Joseph gives them an "easy out" (v. 17)
  - No longer jealous of the favored brother (v. 20, 27-28)
  - Concern for his father, not self (v. 30-34)
  - Offers himself as slave instead of Benjamin (v. 33)
- It is Judah's transformation that causes Joseph to break down in tears (45:1)!



# Why Did God Choose Judah?

- Judah exhibited true **leadership**
- Judah demonstrated true **growth**
- Judah modeled true **sacrifice**

*Judah foreshadows the gospel of grace  
brought through Jesus*

- Jesus is the promised **King** (Matt. 1:1-3)
- Jesus forgives **sins** (Matt. 1:21)
- Jesus **offers himself** (Matt. 26:26-28)

