

Learning to Forgive Along the Way

Joseph

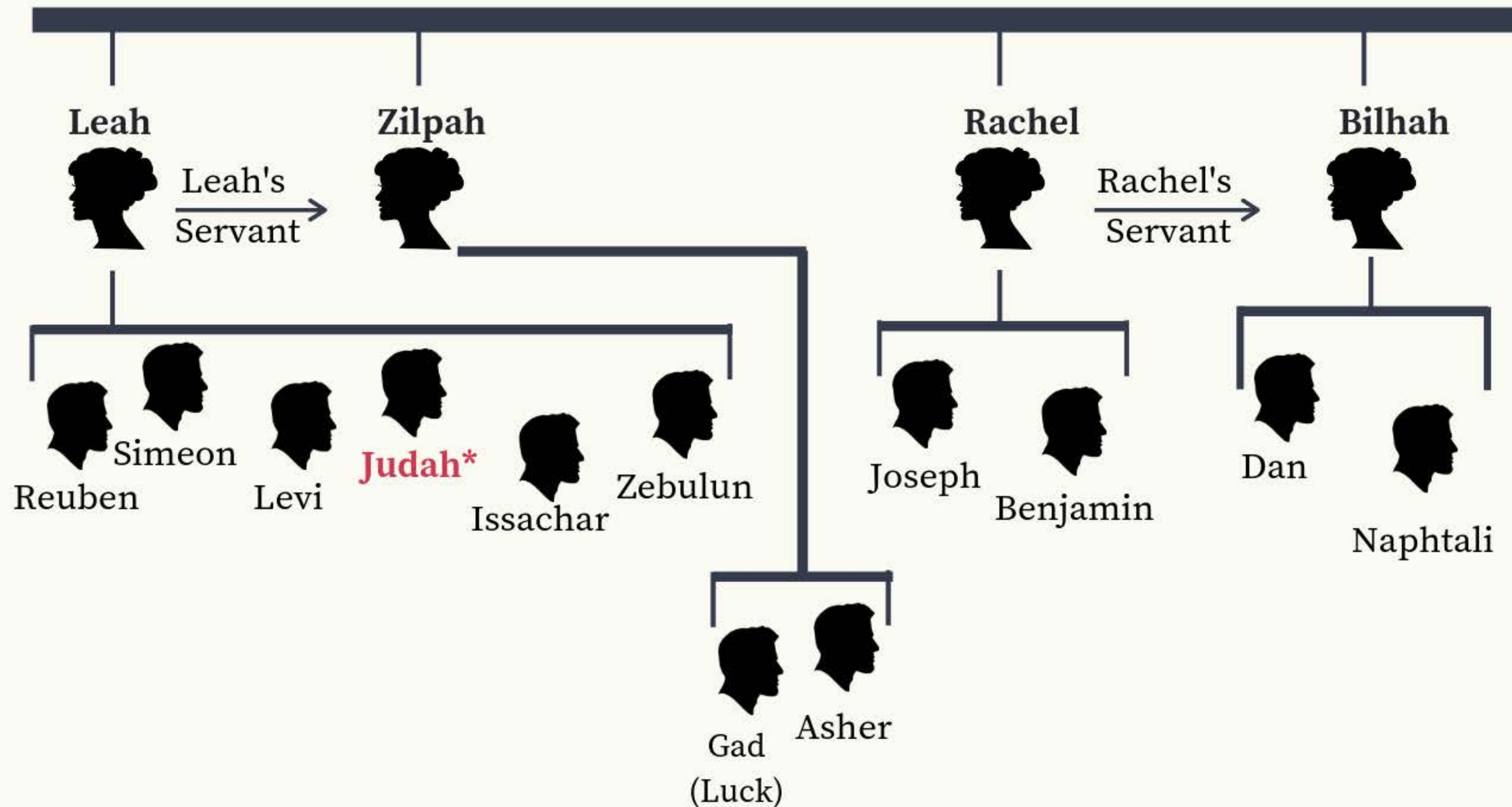
“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

(Romans 8:28)



Jacob's Family

Jacob



I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path. In the way where I walk They have hidden a trap for me.

PSALM 142:2-3

FORGIVENESS

ACKNOWLEDGING THE PAIN

GENESIS 37, 39

A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

We All Have One!

GENESIS 37:1-4

FUELING THE FIRE

Maybe You Don't Have To Wear That Coat

GENESIS 37:5-36

TAMING THE WILD HORSES

Keeping Our Emotions In Check

GENESIS 37:12-36

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

Unfair and Calculated

GENESIS 39:1-9

FORGIVENESS

WAITING TO BE REMEMBERED

GENESIS 40

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

HEBREWS 12:15

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

“Waiting to be remembered”

GENESIS 40



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- “When will I catch a break?”

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- “If my brothers had not sold me as a slave...”
- “If my father had not...”
- “If that woman had not...”
- “When will I catch a break?”
- “I just want to live my life in peace!”

- Waiting to be remembered
- Waiting on his dream
- Waiting on his time
- Waiting on his opportunity
- Waiting on God

Genesis 40:1-23

Look for details about Joseph's season of waiting: Note any observations or questions that come to mind.

Then it came about after these things, the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

GENESIS 40:1-23

Pharaoh was furious with his two officials,
the chief cupbearer and the chief baker.

So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the jail, the *same* place where Joseph was imprisoned.

The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them; and they were in confinement for some time.

Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in jail, both had a dream the same night, each man with his *own* dream *and* each dream with its *own* interpretation.

When Joseph came to them in the morning and observed them, behold, they were dejected.

He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in confinement in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"

Then they said to him, "We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it."
Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *it* to me, please."

So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "In my dream, behold, *there was* a vine in front of me;

and on the vine *were* three branches. And
as it was budding, its blossoms came out,
and its clusters produced ripe grapes.

“Now Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand; so I took the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand.”

Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days;

within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office; and you will put Pharaoh's cup into his hand according to your former custom when you were his cupbearer.

“Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.

“For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon.”

When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, “I also *saw* in my dream, and behold, *there were* three baskets of white bread on my head;

and in the top basket *there were* some of all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.”

Then Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days;

within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."

Thus it came about on the third day, *which was* Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.

He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand;

but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

What did you notice in the text?

- Was there a glimmer of hope for a change"

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- Do you think Joseph woke up the next day (3rd day) expecting to be released?

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- Do you think Joseph woke up the next day (3rd day) expecting to be released?
- How might Joseph have felt after days, weeks, months, years passed and the cupbearer did not keep his promise?

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- Over being his father's favorite
- Being betrayed and sold
- Tempted and lied on by Potiphar's wife
- Being forgotten by the cupbearer

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- **What about you? What are some difficult things that you have no control to change right now?**

Scripture

Event

Response

Genesis 39:8-10

Tempted daily by Potiphar's wife

Genesis 39:2-23

Falsely accused and imprisoned

Genesis 40:5-8

Sees prisoners looking dejected

A man without self-control
is like a city broken into and left without walls.

Proverbs 25:28



Sometimes we have no control over the wrong done to us.

- We do control how we react.

Sometimes we have no control over the wrong done to us.

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- What's worse than being in a literal prison?

Sometimes we have no control over the wrong done to us.

- We do control how we react.
- What's worse than being in a literal prison?
 - Being in the prison of bitterness and hatred.
 - It is possible to be free.

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

Forgiveness and Justice

GENESIS 40

The Ethical Questions:

- Does choosing to forgive condone injustice?
- Are some sins unforgivable (by you)?
- Should we just roll over and let people walk over us?

“Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.

GENESIS 40:14-15

“For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon.”

Speak up!

- 40:15 - "I don't deserve this,"
- We need to call attention to the bad behavior, hold the sinner accountable. (Forgiving is tough, excusing is easy.)
- Do you think Joseph bent God's ear while in prison?

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

1CORINTHIANS 10:13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

1PETER 4:12

The righteous is a guide to his neighbor,
But the way of the wicked leads them astray.

PROVERBS 12:26

“Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find; knock,
and it will be opened to you.

MATTHEW 7:7

The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

PROVERBS 28:1

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

Discerning Through the Haze

GENESIS 40

He sent a man before them,
Joseph, *who* was sold as a slave.

PSALM 105:17-22

They afflicted his feet with
fetters, He himself was laid in
irons;

Until the time that his word
came to pass, ***The word of the
LORD tested him.***

The king sent and released him,
The ruler of peoples, and set him
free.

He made him lord of his house
And ruler over all his
possessions,

To imprison his princes at will,
That he might teach his elders
wisdom.

Pursue peace with all men, and
the sanctification without which
no one will see the Lord.

HEBREWS 12:14-15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

'Vengeance is Mine, and retribution,
In due time their foot will slip; For
the day of their calamity is near,
And the impending things are
hastening upon them.'

DEUTERONOMY 32:35

The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless *us*; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.

PSALM 115:12

'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'

JEREMIAH 29:11

Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

JOHN 21:20-22

So Peter seeing him said to Jesus,
“Lord, and what about this man?”

Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me!"

- Think about the hours we have wasted pursuing negative emotions.
- Seeing a skewed view of people and replaying scenes of wrongs done to us.
- Being prisoners to our own mental battles of negativity.

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

The Great Forgiver

GENESIS 40

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

MATTHEW 18:21-22

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

The Great Debtor (Matthew 18:23-35)

- 10,000 talents (20 years of labor=millions of \$)
- 100 denarai=one day's wage
- I owe 10,000 talents and God has forgiven me!

But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

LUKE 23:34

TRUE

FORGIVENESS

FORGIVENESS

DREAMS COMING TRUE

GENESIS 41-42

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

1CORINTHIANS 15:58

DREAMS COMING TRUE

The Second Story

GENESIS 41-42

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1CORINTHIANS 15:58