



*A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF  
JOSEPH*



## **Lesson 8 Forgiveness pt. 2**

### **The makings of a Leader**

**Gen. 42:29-32,35-38; Gen. 43:1-2,8-10,15-16,26-31 Gen. 44:1-2,12-13,18,32-34**

Do you think leadership is something that comes naturally, or is it something that you think you acquire?

What is one quality that you think a leader has to have?

Also, a leader must have the ability to look at a failed situation and say what can I learn from that. They have to be able to say "I have failed."

Advancing through adversity often makes or breaks a leader. Judah comes to the forefront, and takes the leadership position.

Why do you think this story is in the middle of the life of Joseph?

\* Being in the position of leadership doesn't necessarily make you the leader.

Reuben- was the oldest and the so called leader...

he is afraid to take a stand for something. The trust factor that his father has in him finally diminishes.

***Gen. 42:37 Genesis 42:37 Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."***

Judah- tries to hide his sin in Gen. 38... He admits his sin and the transformation process starts in his life.

***Genesis 43:8–10 <sup>8</sup>Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. <sup>9</sup>I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. <sup>10</sup>For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."***  
***God honors and uses the ones that remain humble.***

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POINT #1 BEING A  
LEADER MEANS THAT  
YOUR  
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE  
USED TO BRING  
REPENTANCE IN  
OTHERS AS WELL.

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It is important to note that Jacob never addressed the issue in Genesis 38. He never rebuked Judah when dealing with it.

What was the difference between Jacob and Judah when it came to their sin?

God was in the process of bringing the natural leader to the front, and also using this to bring repentance into the life of Jacob.

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POINT #2 LEADERSHIP  
IS MORE THAN WHAT  
YOU SAY, IT IS MORE IN  
WHAT YOU DO... THEN  
BY YOUR WORDS  
PEOPLE WILL BUY IN  
TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO  
SAY.

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**Judah repented of his sins (Gen.38) then by his actions his father saw something in him that was different... Judah has learned something from his past.**

**Reuben- Gen. 42:37-38... <sup>37</sup>Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." <sup>38</sup>But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."**

**How would you feel if you were Reuben's sons?  
Would you like to follow someone that says this?**

**Judah- Gen 43:8-10... <sup>8</sup>Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. <sup>9</sup>I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. <sup>10</sup>For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."**

**What is different? If you were Jacob which one would you feel more comfortable with?**

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**POINT # 3 LEADERSHIP  
IS WORKING IN MORE  
WAYS THAN YOU  
THINK. GEN 44:18,32-34**

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**Genesis 44:18** <sup>18</sup>Then Judah came near to him and said: “O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord’s hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.

**Genesis 44:32–34** <sup>32</sup>For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.’ <sup>33</sup>Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. <sup>34</sup>For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?”

**What did Judah think was the main reason why he was the leader?**

**What was Joseph looking for in his brothers?**

**Joseph wanted his brothers to be able to answer the question, Have they learned anything? Are they sad for what they did to me?**

**Because Judah was able to say I am accountable for anything that might go wrong. Joseph was about to change their life.**



**Through wild family circumstances, God molds Joseph into the person he needs to be as well as Judah.**

## **Lesson 9 Find the silver lining**

**Gen. 45: 1-11; 14-18; 21-22; 24**

**What do you think I mean by find the silver lining?**

**What was the silver lining in Joseph's life concerning being sold in to slavery?**

- 1. Reuben- takes on the leadership position**
- 2. Jacob- does not want Benjamin to go back with the other brothers.**
- 3. Reuben- promises his father that he has his word Benjamin will come back**
- 4. Reuben- he pleases out to Joseph to take him instead of Benjamin**

**What is Chapter 45 all about?**

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POINT #1 WE ARE  
AFRAID PEOPLE WILL  
NOT RESPECT OUR  
THOUGHTS  
CONCERNING A  
SITUATION. V'S 1-3

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***Genesis 45:1–3*** <sup>1</sup>*Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.* <sup>2</sup>*And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.* <sup>3</sup>*Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; does my father still live?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.*

Do you think it was hard for Joseph to come out and say I am your brother Joseph?

Past situations can hinder us in sharing our thoughts because of how we were treated before.

Jacob knew from past situations that his brothers might not accept him.

What situations can you remember might have been keeping Joseph from sharing who he was with his brothers?

Sometimes, God might put an issue so heavy on your heart that you have to share it... and until we share it the blessing can feel more like a burden.

Have you ever felt like that before?

Do you get the sense that might be what is going on in the 1<sup>st</sup> three verses?

**Sometimes God will show you something before He reveals it to anyone else.**

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POINT #2 WE HAVE TO  
CONSTANTLY REMIND  
PEOPLE WHO WE ARE  
PUTTING OUR TRUST  
IN. V'S 5-9

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*Genesis 45:5–9* <sup>5</sup>*But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup>So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>“Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph: “God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry.*

In four of the five verses Joseph constantly

**reminds them who he is putting his trust in.**

Look back at Gen. 41:16,25,28,32 Do you see a similar pattern in Gen. 41 and Gen. 45?

***Genesis 41:16 <sup>16</sup>So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."***

***Genesis 41:25 <sup>25</sup>Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do:***

***Genesis 41:28 <sup>28</sup>This is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.***

***Genesis 41:32 <sup>32</sup>And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.***

Do you see a similar pattern in Gen. 41 and Gen. 45?

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POINT #3 AFTER WE DO  
OUR PART, IT IS UP TO  
OTHERS TO RESPOND  
TO WHAT WE SAY. V'S  
9-11&14-18 THEY CAN  
EITHER TRUST HIM OR  
TURN AWAY FROM  
HIM...

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***Genesis 45:9–11*** <sup>9</sup>***“Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph: “God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children’s children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine.” ’***

***Genesis 45:14–18*** <sup>14</sup>***Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. <sup>15</sup>Moreover he kissed all his brothers***

*and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him. <sup>16</sup>Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well. <sup>17</sup>And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan. <sup>18</sup>Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.*

**What is the silver lining that the brothers might have learned?**

**What does Joseph mean by the quote he makes in v's 24? Genesis 45:24 <sup>24</sup>So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."**



## Lesson 10

# Did Joseph get left out again?

### Gen. 48

What is a saying that we say that might be common to us but foreign to Northerner's?

In trying to interpret the Old Testament...

In order to understand the content (the verses) you have to understand the context (the culture).

***Genesis 48:1 <sup>1</sup>Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. <sup>2</sup>And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. <sup>3</sup>Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, <sup>4</sup>and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.' <sup>5</sup>And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine;***

*as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. <sup>6</sup>Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. <sup>7</sup>But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."*

*<sup>8</sup>Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?" <sup>9</sup>Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them." <sup>10</sup>Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. <sup>11</sup>And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!" <sup>12</sup>So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth. <sup>13</sup>And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. <sup>14</sup>Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on*

*Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. <sup>15</sup>And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, <sup>16</sup>The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."*

*<sup>17</sup>Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. <sup>18</sup>And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." <sup>19</sup>But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations." <sup>20</sup>So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!' " And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.*

*<sup>21</sup>Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. <sup>22</sup>Moreover I have given*

***to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow.”***

Does it sound like that Joseph is being overlooked once again?  
What makes you think this?

It does sound like Joseph was over looked once again, but if we understand the context then we notice he was actually getting more not less!

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OUR MATH DOESN'T  
ALWAYS ADD UP...

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12 sons of Jacob/Israel

12 tribes minus Joseph's inheritance plus Ephraim and Manasseh inheritance equals what?

To understand the context, you have to understand the content.

***Deuteronomy 10:8–9<sup>8</sup>At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day.<sup>9</sup>Therefore Levi has no portion nor***

*inheritance with his brethren; the Lord is his inheritance, just as the Lord your God promised him.*

- 10- of Joseph's brothers inherited a tribe
- 1- of Joseph's brothers served in the tabernacle/temple(Ex.deacons in the church)
- 2- Ephraim were considered "adopted in"

## **BUT WHAT ABOUT JOSEPH?**

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POINT #1 THE  
BLESSINGS THAT GOD  
GRANTS US  
SOMETIMES ARE  
DEEPER THAN WE CAN  
IMAGINE.

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*Genesis 48:5–11* <sup>5</sup>And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. <sup>6</sup>Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of

***their brothers in their inheritance. <sup>7</sup>But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."***

***<sup>8</sup>Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?" <sup>9</sup>Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them." <sup>10</sup>Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.***

***<sup>11</sup>And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"***

Since Jacob is the recipient of the inheritance, he has the authority to adopt Joseph's offspring

Because of this, Jacob ensures that the ordered lines of inheritance will not be jeopardized in the future.

Jacob was basically saying, "Joseph, because of your faithfulness, I am going to give you two

places in the inheritance instead of just one.  
Joseph, I am also going to bless you with a double portion of the inheritance through your sons.”

## **But the blessing has more!**

***1 Chronicles 5:1–2 <sup>1</sup>Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel—he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright; <sup>2</sup>yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Joseph’s—***

This shows the superiority of Joseph over his brothers in the immediate context, BUT the blessing of kingship reserved for Judah projects that he will take the lead among the tribes. Joseph got the inheritance, but kingship went through Judah. V’s 21-22

\*Explain the importance of this\*

Josh. 24:32- this was considered “proof” who was next in line..

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POINT #1 GOD HAS THE  
ABILITY TO WIPE OUR  
SLATE CLEAN AND  
REMOVE THE  
BAGGAGE FROM THE  
PAST. V'S 13-20

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Jacob's vision is fading, leaving him dependent on others... does this sound familiar? Gen. 27:1-29 the story of Jacob and Esau... but this is a divine appointment from God v's 11. ***11And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"***

Remember what the names of Ephraim and Manasseh mean?

Manasseh- for God has allowed me to forget all the toil from my father's house. Gen. 41:51

Ephraim- for God has allowed me to be fruitful in the land of the affliction.



# Lesson 11 The last will and testament: Reuben

Gen. 49:3-4

*<sup>3</sup>“Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. <sup>4</sup>Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father’s bed; Then you defiled it— He went up to my couch.*

Reuben: The First born son

Genesis 49:3 “Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength,

Jacob makes two statements concerning 1<sup>st</sup> or beginning: 1) 2)

The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

Jacob makes two statements that his excellency consist of: 1) 2)

**But because you are...**

Genesis 49:4 Unstable as water, you shall not excel,

## Why?

Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it— He went up to my couch. > Gen. 35:22

What do you think Jacob means when he says “unstable as water?”

Jacob makes it clear that throughout Reuben's life his supremacy among his brothers was “he is the oldest.”

His strength (**v's 3**) is merely in a position and not in performance.

**Gen. 37:20-22; 29-30**

***<sup>20</sup>Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!’ <sup>21</sup>But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, “Let us not kill him.” <sup>22</sup>And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him”—that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.***

**Genesis 37:29–30 <sup>29</sup>Then Reuben**

**returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.**

**<sup>30</sup>And he returned to his brothers and said, “The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?”**

**How does this relate to the last will and testament given in Gen. 49:3-4?**

**Genesis 49:3–4 <sup>3</sup>“Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.**

**<sup>4</sup>Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father’s bed; Then you defiled it— He went up to my couch.**

**Numbers 32:1, 5-8, 13**

**1 Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of livestock; and when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that indeed the region was a place for livestock,**

**Numbers 32:5–8 <sup>5</sup>Therefore they said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan.” <sup>6</sup>And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben: “Shall your brethren go to war while you sit**

*here? <sup>7</sup>Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD has given them? <sup>8</sup>Thus your fathers did when I sent them away from Kadesh Barnea to see the land.*

***Numbers 32:13***

*<sup>13</sup>So the LORD's anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone.*

Reuben's attitude is "I'll just settle for this right here." Or isolating yourself

Even though he is the firstborn, should he receive the blessing? Why or why not?

## **Lesson 12 Last will and Testament- Judah**

**Gen. 49:8-12**

**Genesis 49:8–12**

***<sup>8</sup>“Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father’s children shall bow down before you. <sup>9</sup>Judah is a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? <sup>10</sup>The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. <sup>11</sup>Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. <sup>12</sup>His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.***

Can you think back to someone in school or just growing up with that probably wasn’t consider most likely to succeed, but now they have had tremendous success in what they are doing?... Might be considered a “late bloomer”

Judah basically fits the mold of the question

above.

\*\*\*From Genesis to Joshua the prominent line is Ephraim or the Ephraimites\*\*\* (Joseph's son)

Not until **Judges 12:1-7** do the Ephraimites lose their dominance... the consequence was 42,000 died.

The ultimate downfall comes in 1 Samuel 4 in verse 21 that says "The glory has departed from Israel"

## **THEN...**

King Saul comes into the picture and he is from the tribe of Benjamin 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 9:1-2; 15-16.

## **THEN...**

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 13:1 **1**Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

## **THEN...**

***1 Samuel 16:12–13*** ***12***So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" ***13***Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon

***David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.***

Years later does the last will and testament of Judah comes to the forefront.

Gen. 49:9 basically explains the progression of the descendants of Judah... ***Genesis 49:9 <sup>9</sup>Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?***

Do you have any idea why I say **v's 9** explains the progression? (the progression of the lion)

So what can we learn from the line of Judah?  
Referring to God's timing...

- Blessing sometimes don't come when we think they should
- God's timing is not always our timing
- God's timing is not always clear and his motive is not always clear.

## Referring to God's blessings

- Even when it doesn't seem possible, it is possible
- Even when it doesn't make sense it will eventually make sense
- V's- 8&9 "your father's children will honor you" ... and lion 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:10-13
- V's 11-12- "binding his choice donkey to the vine" What does this remind you of in the New Testament? Luke 19:30-31&

John 15 Who is the "king of the jungle" and what does it represent?

Revelation 5:5

*<sup>5</sup>But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*