



God said, "Vengeance is mine!"

August 28, 2017

GENESIS 50:20 NKJV – (20) But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

If anybody had the right to be upset, it would be Joseph. Although part of the plot against [Joseph](#), it is Reuben, his oldest brother, who persuades the others not to kill Joseph, tries to rescue him, and, who later concludes that the trouble the brothers' experience in [Egypt](#) was divine punishment for their plot. Reuben is described as being motivated by a sense of responsibility for his brothers (as the eldest), and angered when he discovers that Joseph was missing, sold by his brothers to the [Ishmaelites](#).

Reuben, the firstborn of the twelve sons, was to Jacob his "might, the first sign of my strength" (**GENESIS 49:3**), indicating that he was given all the rights and prerogatives of a firstborn son. At first, Reuben excelled in honor and power, as is fitting the firstborn son, however, by **GENESIS 35:22** Jacob declares that Reuben "will no longer excel" (verse 4) due to his sin of incest with Bilhah, his father's concubine wife. Even though Reuben's sin was committed forty years prior, there was left an indelible spot on his character and that of his posterity. By committing this uncleanness with his father's wife, there would be reproach upon his tribe and the family, to whom he, as the firstborn, was tasked to serve as an example and a blessing. Reuben forfeited the prerogatives of his birthright and, as a result, his dying father demoted him - though he did not disown or disinherit him. Reuben still maintained all the privileges of a son, but not of the firstborn son.

Jacob's sad prophecy for Reuben certainly came true. No judge, prophet, ruler, or prince came from that tribe, nor any person of renown except Dathan and Abiram, who were noted for their rebellion against Moses. Reuben's tribe chose a settlement on the other side Jordan, a further indication of the loss of godly influence on his brothers to which his birthright entitled him. Although Reuben was the firstborn, the kingdom was given to Judah and the priesthood to Levi, leaving Reuben's tribe small and not influential.

Further, Reuben was "unstable as water" (some versions translate it "turbulent as water"); in this phrase we find several lessons for all Christians. Reuben's virtue was unstable; he did not have control of himself and his own appetites. The charge of instability could refer to his being sometimes very regular and orderly, while at other times wild and undisciplined. As Christians, we must always work to be in control of our flesh and its appetites and desires at all times. Most importantly, we are required to remain steadfast in our faith and not "tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine." (**EPHESIANS 4:14**).

We also learn from Reuben that those who dabble in sin forfeit their reputation and their positive influence on others. Although we know our sins were nailed to the cross and we are forever forgiven for past sins, we still suffer the consequences of those sins, including remorse, loss of reputation, and loss of influence. Reuben's sin left an indelible mark upon him and his family. As Christians, we must understand that dishonor is a wound that does not heal without leaving a scar.

So how does the scripture above relate to the title of this meditation? For all he suffered, Joseph never sought revenge! He forgave and left any consequences to God alone! God knows everything we have done will do and have plans to do. As a result, Reuben never escaped God's wrath. God knew Reuben's agenda all along. He knew that Reuben was the ringleader in hurting his brother. Likewise, God knows who is planning to hurt you. Leave it to Him and watch the results

SCRIPTURE READING

DEUTERONOMY 32:35

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Let go and let God handle it!