

## Vayechi 5785

### Rashi on Genesis 49:8

THOU JUDAH, THY BRETHREN SHALL PRAISE THEE — Because he rebuked the first three tribes in harsh terms Judah began to move away that he (Jacob) should not censure him for the incident with Tamar; Jacob therefore recalled him with words that would soothe him: Judah, you are not like these! — you your brethren may indeed praise (Genesis Rabbah 99:5).

HY HAND IS ON THE NECK OF THINE ENEMIES — a prophecy fulfilled in the days of David, a descendant of Judah, who said (2 Samuel 22:41) “Thou hast also made mine enemies turn their back unto me” (Genesis Rabbah 99:8). (The Hebrew may signify, “Thou hast given me my enemies’ necks”).

### Tosefta Berachot 4:16

[Then] he (i.e. Rabbi Tarfon) said to them (i.e. his students), “I will ask [you another question].” They said to him, “Teach us our master.” He said to them, “Why did [the tribe of] Yehudah merit the kingship [of Israel]?” They said to him, “Because [Yehudah] admitted [that he impregnated] Tamar.”

It happened [once] with four elders, that they were sitting in the gatehouse of Rabbi Yehoshua. [They were] Elazar Ben Matya, Chaninah Ben Chachinai, Shimon Ben Azzai, and Shimon Hateimani. And they were involved [in discussing] what Rabbi Tarfon taught to them, “Why did [the tribe of] Yehudah merit the kingship [of Israel]?” “Because [Yehudah] admitted [that he impregnated] Tamar.” They have added [another source to that explanation] on their own. “[It says in the book of Iyov], ‘... that which the wise related from their fathers and did not withhold. To them alone the earth was given...’ (Job 15:18-19)” He (i.e. Rabbi Tarfon) said to them (i.e. to the four elders), “Do they give reward for a transgression? But rather what is [the real] reason why did [the tribe of] Yehudah merit the kingship of Israel?” [The four elders said back to Rabbi Tarfon,] “Because he (i.e. Yehudah) saved his brother (i.e. Yosef) from death, as it is said, ‘Yehudah said to his brothers, “What benefit [will we have] if we kill our brother?”’

But rather what is [the real] reason why did [the tribe of] Yehudah merit the kingship of Israel?” They said to him, “Teach us our master.” He said to them, “[The reason the tribe of Yehudah merited the kingship of Israel is] because they sanctified God’s name on the sea. When [all of] the tribes came and stood by the sea, this one said, ‘I will go down [into the water first]’ and this one said, ‘I will go down [into the water first].’ The tribe of Yehudah jumped up and went in first and sanctified God’s name [by doing so]. And regarding that moment it says [in Tehillim], ‘Save me God, because the water is up to my soul.’ (Psalms 69:2) And it also says, ‘When Yisrael was going out of Egypt, the children of Yakov from the nation of a foreign tongue, Yehudah was His sanctifier...’ (Psalms 114:1-2) Since Yehudah sanctified God’s name on the sea, therefore ‘... Yisrael his subjects.’ (ibid.).”

### I Chronicles 5:1-2

1)The sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel. (He was the first-born; but when he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph son of Israel, so he is not reckoned as

first-born in the genealogy; 2) though Judah became more powerful than his brothers and a leader came from him, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph.)

### **Rashi on Chronicles 5:2**

And the one appointed as prince was to be from him the kingship emanated from him, and for this reason the king was called נָגִיד, since he is the one who leads [the people] out and brings them in [the Aramaic root נגד means to pull or lead.] And the birthright and the throne were taken from Reuben, and the throne was given to Judah, as it is written: “Because Judah prevailed over his brothers”; but the share of the birthright was given to Joseph, to his two sons.

### **Sforno on Genesis 49:8**

“you are the one who is fit to fill the position of royalty. The reason is that you are not stained with fatal flaws which would disqualify you from becoming king.

### **I Samuel 16:1**

And the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and set out; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have decided on one of his sons to be king.”

### **Genesis 36:1 and 31**

1) This is the line of Esau—that is, Edom.

31) These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the Israelites.

### **Genesis 37:3**

Now Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons—he was his “child of old age”; and he had made him an ornamented tunic.

### **II Samuel 13:18**

She was wearing an ornamented tunic, for maiden princesses were customarily dressed in such garments.-c—His attendant took her outside and barred the door after her.

### **Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz on II Samuel 13:18**

When Tamar had come to Amnon, there was an embroidered tunic, a tunic of embroidered stripes of many colors, or of strips of cloth sewn together, beautiful and special, similar to that given by Jacob to his beloved son, Joseph, upon her other garments, for so would the king’s virgin daughters wear robes. They would wear these robes over their other clothing as a sign of honor and an indication of their elevated status. His servant took her out and locked the door behind her.

### **Alshich on Genesis 49:8**

This is because Yehuda had the attribute of the Creator, as our sages said, that he was red to the nations and merciful to Israel.

