

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Judah & Tamar"
Genesis 38:1-30
Study-66

Genesis 38:1-10

Genesis 37-50 Joseph 1/3 of Genesis records great details about Joseph.

Genesis 38 is called **"A Parenthetical Chapter"**

Reasons why this chapter is recorded:

- 1. History** – Genesis gives the origin of the tribes of Israel. Judah became the kingly tribe through whom Jesus came, making it important. **Matthew 1:3; Luke 3:33**
- 2. Morality** – Reveals the dangers of living in Canaan (World)
- 3. Covenant Community** – Judah got into trouble when he separated himself.
- 4. Grace** – God loves to use people like you and me who are sinners.

(NLT) Proverbs 19:3

Thought Of Our Passage: "We Are In The World, But Not To Be Of It. And If We Attempt To Accomplish God's Will Through Sin, We Will Bring Shame."

- 1. Verses 1-11 The Sons:**
- 2. Verses 12-26 The Scheme:**
- 3. Verses 27-30 The Seed:**

1. Verses 1-11 The Sons:

Genesis 38:1 And it came about at that time,
Context – Joseph was sold into slavery, sold to Potiphar in Egypt.
We are not given a date. It was in the time period of **22 years**

that Judah departed from his brothers,
Judah possibly hated to see his father mourn for Joseph **Genesis 37:34-35.**
What the brothers did was wrong! Judah is backsliding

Adullam – a city 13 miles Southwest of Bethlehem.
and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.
Means "*Splendor*"

Genesis 38:2 The mother's name was **Shua** – "*Freedom, or freedom from trouble.*" Her Daughter, Judah's future wife, is unnamed!

Lust Of The Eyes: Judah saw there a daughter
He saw her and wanted her, not spiritually, pure flesh.

Judah Married A Heathen Wife: and he took her and went in to her.
This was forbidden by God, but Judah defied God, and it started the motion away from God.

Genesis 34 Defiled – Dinah their sister was raped by heathens. In Shechem

Simeon and Levi Deceived – a city then murdered and looted it.

**Christian's failures can be traced to the marriage of a non-Christian.
(Years of sorrow & suffering) 2 Corinthians 6:14-15**

Genesis 38:3 bore a son and he named him Er.

"to wake up, or to open the eyes, watcher"

Genesis 38:4 Onan.*"strong, strength"*

It was his mother who named him.

Genesis 38:5 Shelah *"short or a loan"*

Mother named him.

and it was at Chezib *"falsified"* **that she bore him.**

Genesis 38:6 Tamar.

She was about 16-17 years of age. **Tamar** – *"a palm tree"*

Genesis 38:7 Er *"to wake up, or to open the eyes"*

so the LORD took his life. Sometimes God does this. (What was his evil?)

Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira

Genesis 38:8 perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her,

(Lev-er-et) *"Levirate Marriage."* (The word levirate comes from the Latin word *levir* which means "a husband's brother.") Mosaic law. **Deuteronomy 25:5-10;**

Matthew 22:23-28

**Genesis 38:9 Onan knew that the offspring would not be his;
Deuteronomy 23:21-23**

**so when ("Whenever" *"regularly spill"*) he wasted his seed on the ground
in order not to give offspring to his brother.
(Refused to consummate marriage!)**

Genesis 38:10 displeasing in the sight of the LORD

It was a sin against God

so He took his life also.

God's judgment on the second son of Judah.

**Genesis 38:11 Judah's refusal to take responsibility for the welfare of his
daughter-in-law Tamar was sinful.**

for he thought, "I am afraid that he too may die like his brothers."

Judah places blame on Tamar not on his sinful sons!

2. Verses 12-26 The Scheme:

Genesis 38:12 Now after a considerable time

So after a long time now

Judah went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah,

Festive time, Mardi Gras.

Genesis 38:13-14 removed her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, and wrapped herself, removed the widow's cloths and put on the bright cloths of a shrine prostitute.

and sat in the gateway of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah;

This was near the place that **Samson** would later take a Philistine wife for himself.

Why did Tamar do this? Tamar's right to be the mother of Judah's heir. (Took matters into her own hands!) Preserving The Bloodline of Judah, Royal Tribe, Messiah would Come!

she saw that Shelah had grown up,

(Judah as crooked as the people he lives among)

Genesis 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot,

Genesis 38:16 *This passage is proof that the Bible is of divine origin.*

Why did Judah go to a prostitute? He had fleshly desires

Genesis 38:17-18 She wants collateral until Judah could give the goat to her.

"**Your seal** signified his **(Person)**, cylinder around the neck pressed into wax or clay

and your cord, a chain or bracelet, with the seal **(Possessions)**

and your staff marked him as a shepherd **(Position)**

Judah was willing to give all away for a few moments of pleasure.

Hebrews 11:25

Judah Was Immoral: So he gave them to her, and went in to her,

Married a heathen, was unfaithful in his commitments, led to

"Adultery with his daughter-in-law"

and she conceived by him. This is what Tamar wanted and was promised years ago

Genesis 38:19 removed her veil and put on her widow's garments.

Genesis 38:20 What a poor witness Judah was.

Genesis 38:21 Tried to give the goat as promised, but was not there.

Genesis 38:22-23 otherwise we will become a laughingstock.

More concerned about what people are going to say!

Genesis 38:24 Then Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

Most extreme form of penalty for Tamar.

Stoning, typical **Deuteronomy 22:20-24**

Genesis 38:25-26

Judah Owned His Sin: "She is more righteous than I," more *in the right than me*" inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah." Ruth 4:12

(Immoral & Hypocritical)

Numbers 32:23 and be sure your sin will find you out.

3. Verses 27-30 The Seed:

Genesis 38:27 that behold, there were twins in her womb. (Jacob & Esau)

Genesis 38:28

The scarlet thread speaks of redemption.

Genesis 38:29-30

Perez – "*a breach, a break, or breaking forth*" bloodline of Jesus Christ.

Of David, Kingly line **Genesis 49:8-12** then Christ **Ruth 4:18; Matthew 1:2**

Zerah – "*scarlet*" his descendant, was Achan **Joshua 7:1**

Matthew 1:1-17

1. Tamar – Was a Canaanite, had a genuine faith in God.

2. Rehab – Who was a prostitute of Jericho who hid the spies. **Joshua 2,6**

3. Ruth – Moabitess people. Under the curse of their law. **Deuteronomy 23:3**

4. Bathsheba – Hittite Her name is not even said, **Matthew 1:6**
"Uriah's wife"

Application:

- 1. Judah, In His Backsliding, Created A Mess - Married Out Of The Lord, His Two Sons God Took In Judgement. Judah Refused To Take Responsibility For His Daughter-in-Law. Judah Solicited A Prostitute, Being His Daughter-In-Law, She Becomes Pregnant.**
- 2. Tamar's Right Was To Be The Mother Of Judah's Heir. Tamar's Wrong Was Her Taking Matters Into Her Own Hands. God, Out Of His Grace, Stepped In Transforming It For His Glory.**