

Judah, Tamar and the Messianic Line

Genesis Chapter 38

- Why - 1) God intertwines His plan through the frailties of man
2) This account placed here to be in contrast to Joseph's life (i.e.: Potphers Wife)

Isa 14:24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, [so] shall it stand:

Psa 33:11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Eph 3:8-11 Eternal Purpose ...carried out in Christ Jesus

Gen 38:1 **1) Tamar - Wife to Widow** vs 1-11

And it came about at that time, that Judah departed from his brothers and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.

- *Possibly guilty conscience and needed to leave his brothers and the regretful conversations.*

Gen 38:2 Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; and he took her and went in to her.

- *Judah, the Messianic line takes a Canaanite Woman. Very Compromised.*

Gen 38:3 So she conceived and bore a son and he named him Er.

Gen 38:4 Then she conceived again and bore a son and named him Onan.

- *Onan = strength*

Gen 38:5 She bore still another son and named him Shelah; and it was at Chezib that she bore him.

- *Shelah = one that breaks*

Gen 38:6 Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name {was} Tamar.

- *Judah involved in picking wife yet he picks a Canaanite woman*
- *Matt 1:3 mentions Tamar in Jesus' Genealogy (A Canaanite and Childless Widow).*

Gen 38:7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD took his life.

Gen 38:8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."

- *Law of the Levirate. (Deut 25:5-8 If your brother died w/o children, it was the obligation of the next brother to fulfill the duties of a husband. He would not only take the wife but all of his brother's property so he had the resources to care for her.*

Gen 38:9 Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother's wife, he wasted his seed on the ground in order not to give offspring to his brother.

- *When he went in (KJV whenever) Speaks of more than one occasion. Onan used her for pleasure but out of his selfishness in not wanting the offspring to be his brothers Onan would spill his seed.*
- *Onan was appearing to do the right thing. His appearance was right but he really was not fulfilling the duty of this family.*
- *Onan had heard of a promised line through the promise of Abraham. Offspring was very important for this promised line. The spilling of his seed was Onan's detesting of the Messianic Line.*

Gen 38:10 But what he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD; so He took his life also.

- *What was displeasing in the Lord's sight*

Gen 38:11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"; for he thought, "{I am afraid} that he too may die like his brothers." So Tamar went and lived in her father's house. .

- *Tamar sent to live with her father until Judah's third and last remaining son is older, yet he was really afraid for his sons life.*

Gen 38:12 **2) Tamar - Widow to Harlot** vs 12-23

Now after a considerable time Shua's daughter, the wife of Judah, died; and when the time of mourning was ended, Judah went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. .

- *A Considerable amount of time has gone by. Judah has not kept his promise.*
- *Judah's Canaanite wife died and after a period of time Judah went to a friend's home at the time of shearing*
- *Shearing was a time of celebration. It was the custom that family friends and all who helped in the tending of the sheep would be invited to this celebration.*
- *As a side note it is interesting the account of when King David was excluded from the celebration at Nabal's house and Abigail had to intercede. (2 Samuel 25)*

Gen 38:13 It was told to Tamar, "Behold, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

Gen 38:14 So she removed her widow's garments and covered {herself} with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in the gateway of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah had grown up, and she had not been given to him as a wife.

Gen 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought she {was} a harlot, for she had covered her face.

- *Tamar seeing Shelah had grown, Tamar grew tired of waiting for Judah to fulfill his promise so she heard that he was traveling to Timnah and she went ahead and put a veil over her face. She dressed like a harlot of the day in the fashion of the Canaanite Temple Prostitute.*

Gen 38:16 So he turned aside to her by the road, and said, "Here now, let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

Gen 38:17 He said, therefore, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." She said, moreover, "Will you give a pledge until you send {it?}"

Gen 38:18 He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" And she said, "Your seal (*signet*) and your cord (*bracelet*), and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave {them} to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

Gen 38:19 Then she arose and departed, and removed her veil and put on her widow's garments.

- *Judah turns aside to a harlot and asks if she is available. He did not know she was Tamar.*
- *The Negotiations begin. What will you give me for what I'll give you? A goat. Give me a deposit or some security. She asks him for his Signet, Bracelet and a Staff.*
 - *Signet - Authority*
 - *Bracelet - Wealth*
 - *Staff - Security*
- *Isn't it interesting what we will give up for a moment of pleasure.*
- *The deal is made and a child is made. After Judah leaves, Tamar removes her disguise and put her garments of mourning on again. But now she is pregnant.*

Gen 38:20 When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite, to receive the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her.

Gen 38:21 He asked the men of her place, saying, "Where is the temple prostitute who was by the road at Enaim?" But they said, "There has been no temple prostitute here."

Gen 38:22 So he returned to Judah, and said, "I did not find her; and furthermore, the men of the place said, 'There has been no temple prostitute here.' "

Gen 38:23 Then Judah said, "Let her keep them, otherwise we will become a laughingstock. After all, I sent this young goat, but you did not find her."

- *Judah tries to keep his word with this harlot. Isn't it interesting that he did not keep his word with his daughter in law but he does with a harlot?*
- *Judah sent a friend to pay her off but he could not find her and what is worst there is not temple prostitute who dwells there.*
- *Judah decides to let it pass.*

Note: Judah thinks he gets away with this indiscretion. Have you yet figured it out? God's kids don't get away with nothing. We will be found out., He already knows.

Gen 38:24 **3) Tamar - Harlot to Mother** vs 24-30

Now it was about three months later that Judah was informed, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the harlot, and behold, she is also with child by harlotry." Then Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

- *What Hypocrisy!!! But this was not uncommon in this culture.*
- *Doesn't our sin look worse on other people?*
- *3 Months, she is starting to show.*

Gen 38:25 It was while she was being brought out that she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "I am with child by the man to whom these things belong." And she said, "Please examine and see, whose signet ring and cords and staff are these?"

- *Can you picture this? An angered Father in Law ready to put his daughter in law to death. But Tamar send ahead the three items to Judah and tells him my child's father owns these. Do you know him?*

Gen 38:26 Judah recognized {them,} and said, "She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not have relations with her again.

- *Judah puts it all together and declares that Tamar is more righteous than he.*
- *Judah had nothing else to do with Tamar after this.*

Gen 38:27 It came about at the time she was giving birth, that behold, there were twins in her womb.

Gen 38:28 Moreover, it took place while she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet {thread} on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

Gen 38:29 But it came about as he drew back his hand, that behold, his brother came out. Then she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" So he was named Perez.

- *What a breach ...you sneaky little guy. How did you pull your brother back and you come out first.*
- *This is actually an incredible picture of the history of God's plan through the history of Israel and the Church. Zerah reached from the womb and scarlet thread was tied on his wrist. Israel or the Old Testament has always had a scarlet thread running through it to point to the Messiah. Yet Zerah withdrew his hand and Perez was born first. It is the church that came forth in new life first. But do not forget, ultimately both were born into this new life.*

Gen 38:30 Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet {thread} on his hand; and he was named Zerah.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

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