

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

GENESIS 38
JULY 12, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

1. Envy developed hatred and drove Joseph's brothers to get rid of him.
 - a) **GENESIS 37.33:** They lied to their father. (cf. Acts 5.1-4)
 - b) **GENESIS 37.34,35:** They broke their father's heart. (cf. 2 Sam. 12.15)
 - c) Were the sons of Jacob also punishing him for showing favoritism? (Gen. 37.3,4)
2. In Genesis 38, our attention is turned to Judah. (Gen. 37.26)

I. FAMILY HISTORY OF JUDAH

- A. Judah marries a Canannite woman.
 1. **GENESIS 38.1:** Judah "*visited a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.*"
 - a) Adullam is located southwest of Jerusalem "*in the lowland*" (Josh. 15.35).
 - b) He went there to visit his friend, Hirah. (Gen. 38.12)
 2. **GENESIS 38.2:** "*a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua.*"
 3. **GENESIS 38.3-5:** Judah and Shua had three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah.
- B. The children of Judah.
 1. In keeping with tradition, Er was given Tamar as wife. (Gen. 38.6; 24.3,4; 34.4)
 - a) Er was "wicked in the sight of the LORD" (v. 7). "Inferior in quality" (Mounce).
 - b) **GENESIS 38.7:** "*and the Lord killed him.*" How? (Lev. 10.2; Rev. 2.21-23)
 2. Onan was instructed to marry his brother's wife Tamar and raise a family. (Gen. 38.8)
 - a) Later this would become part of the Law of Moses. (Deut. 25.5-7)
 - b) **GENESIS 38.9:** "*Onan knew the heir would not be his.*" Selfishness.
 - c) **GENESIS 38.10:** "*And the thing which he did displeased the Lord...*"
 3. Shelah was still young, but Tamar was to "*remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown...lest he die like his brothers*" (Gen. 38.11)

II. THE FAMILY OF JUDAH AND TAMAR

- A. The series of events that follow take place because "*Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage.*" (Gen. 38.14,26)
 1. **SCENE #1:** The Plot. (Gen. 38.12-14)
 - a) The death of Judah's wife. (Gen. 38.12)
 - b) Tamar disguised herself and waiting for Judah to pass. (Gen. 38.13,14)
 2. **SCENE #2:** The Purchase. (Gen. 38.15-19)
 - a) Judah thought she was a prostitute and did not know it was Tamar. (Gen. 38.15,16)
 - b) Not having the purchase price on hand, he offers a pledge. (Gen. 38.17-19)
 3. **SCENE #3:** The Problem. (Gen. 38.20-23)
 - a) He returned to pay Tamar, but he could not find her. (Gen. 38.21)
 - b) **GENESIS 38.22,23:** "*Let her keep the things as her own.*"
 4. **SCENE #4:** The Pregnancy. (Gen. 38.24-30)
 - a) **GENESIS 38.24-26:** She gave him his pledge.
 - b) **GENESIS 38.27-30:** Tamar gave Judah twin boys, Perez and Zerah.
- B. Judah is one of the more significant brothers among the children of Israel. (Gen 29.35)
 1. Jew (yhu): Literally, of Judah. (1 Kings 11.31ff ; 2 Kings 17.18)
 2. Why is this account so significant? (Ruth 4.18-21; Matt. 1.1-3; Heb. 7.14)