

# Genesis 38 - Lesson 42

## Judah's Sins and Sons

### 1. Introduction

- a. In every patriarch we see how God changes them to men of faith
- b. Gen 37-50 is about this change in the 12 brothers/sons of Jacob
- c. Reuben lost the birthright in Gen 35:22 (49:4), Simeon and Levi in 34:25 (49:5-6)
- d. Judah is the family through which Christ came: Matt 1:3, Lk, 3:33, Ge 49:10, Rev 5:5
- e. It was Judah's idea to sell Joseph (Gen 37:26) later he is willing to die for his brother

### 2. Gen 38:1-11 - Tamar and the sons of Judah

- a. We see Judah disobeying God and his fathers (Gen 24:3, 26:34-35, 27:46, 28:1)
- b. The Bible is honest and plain about people's flaws, sins, God's judgment
- c. Er died and God was not unrighteous to slay him. We only know he was wicked.
- d. Onan had the responsibility of a brother's widow (also in God's law Deu 25:5-10)
- e. God did not kill Onan for inappropriate birth control, but for disobedience
- f. "*peradventure he die also*" - Judah wrongfully blames Tamar for their deaths
- g. Similar deaths follow Naomi and Elimelech (Judahites, Pharazites) in Ruth 1:1-13

### 3. Gen 38:12-23 - Tamar Conceives by Judah

- a. The Bible is plain but not bawdy about reproduction, rape, incest, murder, etc.
- b. The world glamorizes and justifies sin, the Bible identifies it and condemns it.
- c. 38:14 - "*she saw Shelah was grown*" ← why she did what she did
- d. 38:17 - "*a pledge*" - being obtained by Tamar as protection from condemnation
- e. 38:23 - "*lest we be shamed*" - not of the prostitute, but of losing the pledge to one

### 4. Gen 38:24-26 - Judah's Hypocrisy and Repentance

- a. "*let her be burnt*" - the hypocrite who initiated the act (see also Matt 21:31)
- b. 38:25 - "*Judah acknowledge them...*" - Judah changed after being convicted of sin
- c. Sinners are blind to their sins, sin must be acknowledged first... 2 Sam 11-12
- d. "*she hath been more righteous than I*" - Tamar is justified; Judah knew her no more

### 5. Gen 38:27-30 - Judah's Twins

- a. We saw twins with Jacob and Esau, a sign of blessing, note the similarity
- b. The first one with a red thread pulls back, and the second comes out ahead
- c. Pharez is in Jesus' line (Lk 3:33) 10 generations before a Judahite reigned (Deu 23:2)
- d. The house of Pharez was enlarged and blessed - Ruth 4:12
- e. Bezaleel, Caleb, Nahshon (prince of Judah) - Num 1:7, 2:3, 10:14, David, Solomon
- f. Judah rejected his brothers, then humbles himself here to lead his brothers, and produces kings and princes in Israel - 1 Chron 5:1-2