

## Genesis 38

## Who's Your Daddy?

3 Generations after God Made Holy Family from Abe, see them UNRAVELING Hatred, Lies, Abuse, Sudden Death of Young Men, Paternity Scandal

Welcome to the REALITY T.V. of ANCIENT WORLD called The BIBLE!

Like the Philosopher in Ecclesiastes says “there is nothing new under the sun”

Behind your SMILING Faces, Some of Us been Forever Scarred by our Families  
Some don't know WHO their Daddy is? Others WISH they Didn't have To  
DYSFUNCTION in Ancient Pages might be taken from Some of our DIARIES

These kinds of Stories correct COMMON MISTAKE people make about BIBLE  
SCRIPTURES are NOT PhotoAlbum of PERFECT People who Only DO Good  
Bible > Story of God TRIUMPHING over EVIL – Around Us & INSIDE of Us!

Martin Luther's comments about this chapter...

The church of God has great need of these examples... What hope would be left of us if Peter had not denied Christ and all the apostles had not taken offense at Him, and if Moses, Aaron, and David had not fallen? Therefore, God wanted to console sinners with these examples and to say, “If you have fallen, return; for the door of mercy is open to you. You, who are conscious of no sin, do not be presumptuous; but both of you should trust in my grace and mercy.”

Martin Luther, on Genesis 38

These are the generations of Jacob.

Genesis 37.2

STORY of COVENANT Family: 12 Sons PATRIARCH JACOB aka ISRAEL

End of chapter 37 – Joseph UNWILLING Dragged as SLAVE to EGYPT

Ch 38 – Scene SHIFT – Jacob's 4<sup>th</sup> born JUDAH – Future LEADER of Family

### 1. Far From Dad

a. Hated Sister - Judah's Mom LEAH – Unwanted, Unloved, 1<sup>st</sup> wife of Father

Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife

that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her...And in the morning, behold, it was Leah!  
Genesis 29.20-25

Jacob had 2 Official Wives – Leah & sister Rachel, 2 Handmaids of Sisters

4 Women had BABY WARS – To Become FRUITFUL and FAVORED Wives

When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, “Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me.” She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also.” And she called his name Simeon. Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi. And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.  
Genesis 29.31-35

LEAH had 4 TROPHIES – Won the BABY WARS – Judah was Number 4  
BIG Hopes w/ Sons 1,2,3 – by time of JUDAH born, Accepted her SAD Fate

Focus on God: “my husband will never love me, maybe God will?!”

So JUDAH grew up in this FRACTURED, POLYGAMOUS, Home  
Born & Raised w/ PAIN of being 4<sup>th</sup> Son of his UNLOVED Mother

## b. Human Shields

DAD’S Name JACOB meant ‘Cheater’ or ‘Thief’ – was Really GOOD at It!

Especially with Twin Brother ESAU – took Birthright and Blessing...NOW...

Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants. And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. Genesis 33.1,2

Esau approached with BIG GUNS – 400 Men ARMED & EAGER to FIGHT!

RACHEL and JOSEPH were WELL-PROTECTED by Lesser Family Members  
Imagine young Judah asking “Mom, why are we SO FAR in the FRONT?!”

### c. Heartless Sobbing – years later, Judah is NO CLOSER to his DAD

They took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, “This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not.” And he identified it and said, “It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.” Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” Thus his father wept for him.  
Genesis 37.31-35

Very CLEAR to Judah he was just 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Citizen in this BLESSED Family  
11 Living SONS were Nothing to JACOB who CRIED Constantly for 1 GONE  
More Dad CRIED for the One Son, Showed how Little he CARED for OTHERS  
JUDAH: If that’s what being PROMISED Child of God looks like, I’m Leaving  
Some People look at CHURCH & say if that’s what Xtianity is...I’m Outta Here  
Make FRESH START, No more Humiliation & Indignity, Gonna BE Somebody  
NOT Surprising JUDAH went FAR From Home to Bright Lights...to BEIJING!

## 2. Just Like Dad

Strange FACT of Life – Things we Don’t Like in Parents SHOW UP in US!  
When JUDAH looked in MIRROR, More and More he LOOKED like JACOB

### a. Uncontrolled Passions

Ch 24 Long Story of Finding Wife for Promised Son – ISAAC > Rebekah

Next GENERATION – JACOB – has 4 FIGHTING Wives!

Next Generation – JUDAH – goes to BADLANDS of Canaanites for WOMAN

Judah's RELATIONSHIP - Described with SIX Verbs, 3 for Him, 3 for Her  
 HIM – v. 2 There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name  
 was Shua. He took her and went in to her – SEES, TAKES, GOES IN

v. 3 and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.

CONCEIVES, BEARS, child NAMED

Judah give 1<sup>st</sup> Son strange Name – ER – Hebrew for EVIL, spell letters backward

Like CAIN this Restless Wander drifts from the Presence of GOD

Nothing mentioned about Small Talk, Chocolates, Flowers, Not even a MOVIE

Words for SAW and TOOK used in Ch 3 describing Eating Forbidden FRUIT

Another DETAIL that is NEVER mentioned is her NAME!

Maybe JUDAH got her Name TATOORED on his ARM, but we Never Learn it!

DECISION of your LIFE Partner is 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important Decision of your Life

1<sup>st</sup> Decision will you RECEIVE or REJECT the Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord

Person you Marry –IF you Decide to Marry – Determine Earthly Destiny, Family

Written in Bulletin Blurb what Should Already know – Xtians marry Xtians!

Lived long enough see godless HOTTIES some My Young Friends Married

Now turned into godless OLD HAGS – Buddies & Families, Many Sorrows

Also seen UNFADING BEAUTY of Jesus in Many Sisters Improve with Age!

## b. Uninvolved Parent

vs. 4,5 She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan. Yet  
 again she bore a son, and she called his name Shelah. Judah was in Chezib when  
 she bore him.

2 More Sons – NAMED by their MOTHER – Judah NOT even There for # 3

Not certain about translation, many scholars CHEZIB = “City of Lies”

v. 6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

Judah found TROPHY Wife for 1<sup>st</sup> Son – TAMAR means PALM TREE

Before long TAMAR was 0 for 2 – Sons Er and Onan were Dead on her Watch

Unlike SOBBING JACOB – Not see Judah shed even ONE TEAR

JACOB never Stopped CRYING and it seems that JUDAH Never STARTED

Judah STALLS for Time – SHIRKS his Responsibility – Sends her back HOME

v. 11 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, “Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up”—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.

Judah man of STATUS and WEALTH – HIS duty to care for Daughter in Law

Brings SHAME to Tamar – Denies her Legal Status – Suspicion she Cursed Sons

Superstitious FEAR – Does not want her to KILL 3<sup>rd</sup> Son – Blames her Deaths

### c. Unexpected Plot

TAMAR took Matters into Her Hands because of JUDAH Failure to LEAD

If Male Heir Dies – Need to make sure his Land & Property Remains in Family

"Levirate" Law (LATIN: Bro-in-Law) Bro of Dead Man Marry Brother's Widow

“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.”

Deuteronomy 25.5,6

CODIFIED HERE for ISRAEL in Law of Moses Centuries LATER

But evidence that Law Practiced by Canaanite Tribes for Many Years Before

As Tamar watches Judah's 3<sup>rd</sup> Son Mature – Realizes she's being LIED To  
Her Father in Law & Brother in Law will Never Vindicate Name of her Husband

Her demand that her father-in-law father a child by her, since he refuses to give his son, is probably consistent with accepted ethical practices at her time. Both Hittite (14<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.) and Middle Assyrian laws legislated that if a man died and his brother also died, then "*his father shall take her...There shall be no punishment.*" The Mosaic law did not go this far, but her actions are not inconsistent with the principle: "[the deceased brother's] *widow must not marry outside the family*" (Deuteronomy 25.5).  
Bruce Waltke

In one sense, ignorance lessens the gravity of sin. But in another sense, it makes the condition of the sinner more hopeless. Tamar lived at a time when little was known of the true God. There was no Bible.  
James Boice

vs. 12-15 In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. And when Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage. When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.

TAMAR fits Well into this FAMILY known for LIES and DECEIT

Jacob & Mom deceived ISAAC, Judah & Bros deceived Jacob w/ Bloody COAT

There is an intertwining of victim and violator...The violence ensnares the psyche of the victim, propels its action in the form of defensive reaction, and...robs if of innocence...In addition to inflicting harm, the practice of evil keeps re-creating a world without innocence. Evil generates new evil as evildoers fashion victims in their own ugly image.  
Miroslav Volf

Now TAMAR smiles like CHESIRE CAT behind her VEIL

Sheep-Shearing TIME was OPPORTUNITY – Fertility Cults were BUSY Then!

Something about those NAKED SHEEP got the Men really EXCITED!

v. 16 He turned to her at the roadside and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law.

Father-in-Law Son of PROMISE of True God – Not giving very Clear Example!

Not only had he Moved to Canaan, Canaan had MOVED INTO him!

vs. 16-18 She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” He answered, “I will send you a young goat from the flock.” And she said, “If you give me a pledge, until you send it—” He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her and went in to her

Like UNCLE ESAU, HUNGRY Judah sells Morals for Bowl Brief Satisfaction

Hooking Up with a Prostitute was as easy for Judah as Renting an OFO BIKE

vs. 18-23 she conceived by him. Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood. When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her. And he asked the men of the place, “Where is the cult prostitute who was at Enaim at the roadside?” And they said, “No cult prostitute has been here.” So he returned to Judah and said, “I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, ‘No cult prostitute has been here.’” And Judah replied, “Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her.”

JUDAH caught in Embarrassing Predicament

Cord & Staff – SYMBOLS of Wealth, Authority, Prominence

Like giving Unknown Woman his WALLET with his I.D. and Credit Cards!

Judah's too IMPORTANT to Search Around – Sends on of his Go-Fers to Look

NOW she's DISAPPEARED and he's left only with Shame of FOOLISHNESS

v. 24 About three months later Judah was told, “Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.”

Leader of Community – Demonstrate Moral Virtue – Burn Sinner @ City Gate

TORTUOUS Execution for this WOMAN caught in SIN of ADULTERY

Remember Judah's family Called to BLESS All People on Earth

Now Judah wants to BURN this Woman caught in Grip of his OWN Mistakes!

But hey! It takes TWO to TANGO --- what about the GUILTY GUY...?

vs. 25 As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant." And she said, "Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff."

It is curious logic: Judah sold his own brother, ditched his family, plunged into a shotgun wedding, ran with the wrong crowd, and ignored his children. However, he was sure that those two mounds of fresh dirt that used to be his sons were Tamar's fault.

Iain Duguid

### 3. Our Great Dad

#### a. Purify Saints

One of REASONS for this Chapter – Contrast Judah & Joseph's BEHAVIOR

JOSEPH will RESIST the ADVANCES of Potiphar's Wife in Next Chapter

Joseph tried DIFFERENT than People around him – JUDAH just LIKE Them

ONE of Reasons FAMILY is Sent to EGYPT is to Not MIX with Pagan Nation

When Joseph prepares father Jacob to meet the Pharaoh, he says...

When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, *for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.*" Genesis 46.33,34

v. 1 Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside

"went down" / JONAH "went down to Joppa & found ship to Tarshish"



JUDAH Not just LEAVING Family – He was ABANDONING FAITH in the TRUE GOD – PRESENCE & PROMISES – Tethered to FRACTURED Family

Glimpse MUCH of SAD History of Israel – Become LIKE Godless Neighbors Embracing their WIVES, VALUES, and their GODS, and their Wickedness

We're to LIVE in PAGAN Land like we have been Sent into it by Jesus Himself  
 Jesus: "I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

John 17.14-18

WE are IN this World – Come from MANY NATIONS

But we are NOT Worldlings – Don't Belong Here – Passing Thru

Carrying HEAVENLY Passport – In TRANSIT Lounge - Looking Up to HIM

b. Punish Sinners – some of SCARIEST Verses in BIBLE!

v. 7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and *the LORD put him to death.*

vs. 9,10 So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother. And what he did was *wicked in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also.*

Onan feels about his Dead Brother ER like Joseph's Brothers Felt about him  
 Levirate Law: Protect Family & Future – Used Tamar for his Pleasure and Fun!

WHENEVER makes clear this was something he did OFTEN

Last thing ONAN wanted was Child Born – that Child take from his Inheritance

LAST Time read such Strong Words were about Sodom & Gomorrah...

The LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. Genesis 19.24,25

Chapter 6 See GOD GRIEVED over World – DESTROYS it by FLOOD

First Time in Scripture such JUDGMENT rendered against INDIVIDUALS

2 Brothers – 2 Sons of COVENANT – Great, Grandsons of ABRAHAM

Despite their PEDIGREE – So EVIL God PUT THEM TO DEATH!

God of OT is the God of NT – Be WARNED

If God would KILL His Son to Save You – You DARE Not IGNORE Him!

People been part of ZGC – Heard Gospel Clearly – Knowingly Walked Away

Friends, God given You JESUS! No better Gift, Dare Not Presume His Grace

May the Deaths of ER and ONAN – SCARE the HELL Out of You!

c. Provides a Savior – Let me Close with some GREAT NEWS!

Judah's FRESH START Failed because he had LUGGAGE Problem

PACKED Something he should NOT have BROUGHT if wanted Clean Break

He carried along HIMSELF! Same old SINFUL Judah!

We Can CROSS a Huge OCEAN but SAME PERSON gets Off the BOAT!

Like GOD attacked Father JACOB and Wrestled him into Broken ISRAEL

Now God SHOCKS Selfish, Sinful Son JUDAH with his Reckless SINS

v. 26 Then Judah identified them and said, "*She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.*" And he did not know her again.

So far from BLESSING of God that PAGAN Canaanite MORE Righteous

Judah like DAVID rebuked by Prophet Nathan – Owns Up to his Own SINS

Judah's TRUE CHARACTER emerges with this HONEST CONFESSION

## Admission was first Step of his TRANSFORMATION

v. 26 he did not know her again – New View of God’s Holiness & His gift of Sex

Judah fails as a son of the covenant, as a father, as a father-in-law. Even the worst of sinners can enter heaven by God’s redemptive grace. It is utterly astounding that Judah’s name is written with the twelve sons of Jacob in the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem. Bruce Waltke

God shows MERCY to Family of JUDAH in giving of TWINS...

Nobody IN this Story can SAVE – Someone NEW must BREAK Into this World

vs. 27-30 When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.” But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Therefore his name was called Perez. Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

STRONGHOLDS of EVIL must be Broken to get out of this Terrible MESS

God sends Perez BREACH – Points to God who will BREAK Through EVIL

PEREZ will be like his GRANDFATHER who STRIVES and PREVAILS

Can all the nations of the earth be blessed through individuals and a family who are constantly on the brink of self-destruction? John H. Walton

Elders of Bethlehem spoke BLESSING to Boaz who Redeemed RUTH...

“may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.” Ruth 4.12

God brings SALVATION in most UNEXPECTED Way – SCANDAL w/ Tamar

Most Canaanite WOMEN lure Israelite men into their DEBASED CULTURE

Wild CANAANITE grafted into HOLY FAMILY to Magnify MERCY of God

Turns from her FAMILY & hitched her FATE to this COVENANT FAMILY

Her FAITHFUL TREACHERY now in Line of Messiah like RAHAB hid Spies

Holy Spirit who Inspired Matthew to Mention TAMAR and few other Bad Girls  
 In the BIRTH RECORD of Lord Jesus – Friend of Sinners, came to Save Sinners  
 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.  
 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the  
 father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by  
 Tamar... Matthew 1.1-3

Jesus is TRUE PEREZ – Born in Fullness of Time to make BREAKTHRU  
 Born in this Family that Could have had REALITY TV Show for their EVIL  
 Jesus came as Son of Sinner and Prostitute – JUDAH and TAMAR

When walked this Earth - his HOMIES were Sinners and Prostitutes  
 Did Not come to BLAME them or BURN Them but to BEAR their BLAME  
 Came to Seek and Save by being SLAIN for Them – Give Life by His DEATH  
 Came to take their CURSE so God could Justly & Freely give them BLESSING  
 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the  
 devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one  
 who does not love his brother. 1 John 3.10

How we know HOLY SPIRIT began to TRANSFORM Judah? Loves FATHER!  
 Events of this Chapter STRETCHED over MORE than 20 years  
 While JUDAH sank in CANAAN, JOSEPH Rose Higher in EGYPT

Then Surprise, Surprise, Judah & Brothers meet Brother they thot was DEAD!  
 But look at Work of God in JUDAH's HEART – Look who he CARES about...

Judah said (*to Joseph*), “Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my  
 lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like  
 Pharaoh himself... ‘We have a father, an old man...as soon as I come to your  
 servant my father, and the boy (*Benjamin*) is not with us...as soon as he sees that  
 the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs

of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol...I fear to see the evil that would find my father.”  
Genesis 44.18-34

This is God’s WORK of GOSPEL – REDEEMS and RECONCILES

BLOOD of Jesus CLEANSSES Us – SPIRIT of Jesus CHANGES Us

Like PETER – God saved JUDAH so he would STRENGTHEN his Brothers

Bad Dad Jacob - JUDAH could Never LOVE > Now DEAR to his HEART

Judah understood what We Need to Know – Cannot Love God we Cannot See

If Cannot Love – Father, Mother, Friend, Enemy, Any Person – You CAN See

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.  
Romans 8.13-17

Jesus has come for You – NEW Life, New Spirit – New ABBA, New Daddy

Who Loves you with UNENDING Love – till End of Ages, to the Ends of Earth

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Genesis 38.<sup>1</sup>It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.<sup>2</sup> There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her,<sup>3</sup> and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.<sup>4</sup> She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan.<sup>5</sup> Yet again she bore a son, and she called his name Shelah. Judah was in Chezib when she bore him.<sup>6</sup> And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.<sup>7</sup> But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death.<sup>8</sup> Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."<sup>9</sup> But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother.<sup>10</sup> And what he did was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also.<sup>11</sup> Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up"—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.<sup>12</sup> In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.<sup>13</sup> And when Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,"<sup>14</sup> she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage.<sup>15</sup> When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.<sup>16</sup> He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"<sup>17</sup> He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it—" <sup>18</sup> He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.<sup>19</sup> Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.<sup>20</sup> When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her.<sup>21</sup> And he asked the men of the place, "Where is the cult prostitute who was at Enaim at the roadside?" And they said, "No cult prostitute has been here."<sup>22</sup> So he returned to Judah and said, "I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, 'No cult prostitute has been here.'" <sup>23</sup> And Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her."<sup>24</sup> About three months later Judah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-

law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.”<sup>25</sup> As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant.” And she said, “Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.”<sup>26</sup> Then Judah identified them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again.<sup>27</sup> When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb.<sup>28</sup> And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.”<sup>29</sup> But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Therefore his name was called Perez.<sup>30</sup> Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.