

# The Book of Genesis

## Chapter Thirty Eight

### *God Overcomes the Sins of Judah*

**Lesson Verse:** Matthew 1:3

#### I. Lesson Introduction

- A. The narrative leaves Joseph temporarily and introduces the sins of \_\_\_\_\_. Judah parted company with his brothers after they sold Joseph. He went down (physically and spiritually) and married a Canaanite woman. His actions cost him dearly.
- B. This chapter actually fits right after chapter 33, and fills you in on internal family affairs in Jacob's family while they lived in Canaan
- C. This chapter has two main topics:
  1. The Levirate marriage. A Levirate marriage is the marriage of a widow to the brother of her deceased husband (*Deut. 25:5-10*)
  2. The Lineage of Jesus.
- D. The second topic of this chapter is the sins of Judah. It is from the tribe of Judah that the Lord comes from. As was discussed previously the rights of the first born have passed on to Judah. Reuben, Levi, and Simeon have sinned so the rights of the first born were not offered to them.
- E. After reading the sins of Judah in this chapter one can only wonder why he was not passed over as well. The only answer is he admitted to, and was \_\_\_\_\_ of his sins.
- F. The devil here seeks to ruin God's plan of using such a rebel as Judah in the line of the Messiah. The one way the devil has to do it is through making it so that God has to CURSE the person that God seeks to use – that almost happened to Judah
  1. It DID happen to Reuben – lost his place of blessing!
  2. It almost happened to all of Israel by Balaam

#### II. Study Lesson

##### A. Judah's \_\_\_\_\_ Actions.

1. The actions of Judah cannot be excused. For him to marry a woman of Canaan was a sin in and of itself.
  - a. What is interesting to note here is God did not stand in Judah's way. He allowed him to marry the daughter of Shuah the Canaanite.
  - b. Judah knew better.
2. There is a lesson here for us.
  - a. We may be set on doing things our way; somewhat contrary to the will of God as did Judah.
  - b. Just because God stood in the way of Balaam, *Num. 22*, is no sign He will do it for us.
  - c. He did not stand in Judah's way. God allowed Paul to go to Jerusalem after he was told it would cost him his life.
  - d. God may or may not stand in our way (*Acts 21:11*)
3. What we have to decide is just how bad do we want to do things our way. How bad do we want it. Judah wanted the Canaanite wife very badly. It appears he loved her very much for he was grieved at her death. Regardless of how much he loved her, he lost two children. Regardless of how much he loved her, he was still out of God's will.

##### B. Judah's Children.

1. From verses 3-6 a period of about 23 years passed in the life of Judah, allowing for Er to be 20 years old when he married. Judah's first born son, Er, married a woman by the name of Tamar. Tamar was also a Canaanite. Judah did not even try to get his son to marry back into the family of Abraham.
2. Has three children:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ – means, Awake, or Aware
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ – means Strong

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ - means, Petition, Prayed For, Requested
3. Er, the first born.
- Er was so evil that God slew him. Just how deep Er was into evil, we do not know. What we do know is it displeased the Lord and the Lord killed him.
  - Is there a lesson here for us? Yes there is. The Bible warns us that there is a sin unto death. That is we can grieve the Lord so much that He takes our life from us. (*Rom 6:16; 1Jn 5:16*)
4. To “\_\_\_\_\_” (38:8; Dt 25:5-9)
- A revealed law from God accepted by people before the Mosaic Laws were written down – God’s laws were always present, even from Cain and Abel’s time.
  - After the death of Er, Judah told his second son Onan, to go in unto Tamar and raise up seed in the name of his brother Er. Knowing that the seed would not be his, Onan did not carry through with the command. This also displeased the Lord and Onan was also killed.
  - Why would Onan not obey? He wanted the rights of first born for himself. If he raised up seed in the name of Er, the rights would have been passed on to Er’s descendants, not his.
  - Is it not strange how we desire to be number one in the will so that we may inherit from our earthly parents, but shy away from all the inheritances that our Heavenly Father offers unto us?
5. Judah’s third son: \_\_\_\_\_
- Judah’s third son was too young to marry, by just a few years. Judah is determined to have a child in the name and lineage of Er. He commanded Tamar to remain a widow and wait until Shelah, his young son was old enough to take a wife. He would then have her marry him.

### C. The Death of Judah’s Wife (12).

- After the death of his wife Judah goes to Timnath to shear his sheep. By this time Shelah is old enough to take a wife (14). However, Judah does not honour his vow to Tamar. Probably too busy to worry about other people’s problems!
- It is at this time that Tamar decides to take matter into her hands and secure the rights of the first born. She must have wanted it badly for she went to extreme measures to obtain it. Sexual sins seems to be a hallmark of Canaan!
- Tamar’s deceit (14).
  - We can surmise that Tamar knew the prestige of being in the lineage of the first-born. Why else would she willing wait for the third son to come of age so she could marry him after loosing two husbands?
  - Tamar sat by the wayside (footpath) waiting on Judah. Judah looked and upon seeing Tamar with her face covered he thought she was a harlot. Tamar does not tell him whom she is. At this time she is still, according to the laws of the land at that particular time, his daughter-in-law.
  - The dressing as a harlot
    - Dressed throughout time in different ways
    - People just always could tell who was “available”
    - Tamar was dressed as the harlots who stood at the entrance of the Temple of Astarte – fancy, and mysterious
    - In Proverbs 7:10, harlots dress differently than a godly woman
  - How bad did Tamar want a son from the lineage of Judah? She wanted it just as badly as Judah wanted his wife.
- Judah’s pledge.
  - Judah wanted pleasure from Tamar. Not having any money to complete the deal, Judah pledged to send Tamar a kid goat in exchange for her services. She does not trust him for he has already lied about giving her his youngest son. Thus she would not take Judah at his word and she asked him for his signet and bracelets until he delivered the goat.

### D. Conception, Deception And \_\_\_\_\_.

- Jacob Tried To Pay His Debt. Jacob sent the kid as he promised by his good friend. However, the woman he sought could not be found. The Adulate went back to Jacob and told him that he could not find the harlot.

2. Tamar With Child (24). For a single woman to be found with child and not be married was a shame and disgrace. Judah is so ashamed when he found out that Tamar was with child that he would have her burnt.
  - a. The fruit of self-righteousness
  - b. Never seeing your own sin
  - c. Only the sins of others
  - d. And the seeking to impose God’s punishment on others, that you would not allow to be imposed on yourself (see John 8)
3. Judah Confessed (26). Judah thus committed three great sins. The first one was he did not honour his vows to give Tamar his youngest son as a husband. The second sin Judah committed was adultery. The third sin he is guilty of is incest.
4. The Lineage Of Jesus.
  - a. Tamar gives birth to twins.
  - b. As one child was being born, his hand came out first. The mid-wife tied a scarlet thread around his arm. She wanted to be sure that she identified the first-born.
  - c. However Pharez broke forth first and came out without the scarlet thread.
  - d. Thus the rights of the first-born went to Pharez and not to Zerah. Pharez, whose name means **breach** or **forging through**, was actually born first and is listed in the lineage of Christ, *Mat. 1:3*.

### III. Conclusions and Applications

#### A. The Lineage Of Jesus From Adam To Pharez (Lk 3:33-38; Mt 1:1-3)

|     |          |            |         |                |
|-----|----------|------------|---------|----------------|
| 1   | Adam     |            | 4004 BC | Creation       |
| 2   | Seth     |            | 3874 BC |                |
| 3   | Enos     |            | 3769BC  |                |
| 4   | Cainan   |            | 3679 BC |                |
| 5   | Maleleel |            | 3609 BC |                |
| 6   | Jared    |            | 3544 BC |                |
| 7   | Enoch    |            | 3317 BC |                |
| 8   | Mathusal | Methuselah | 3382 BC |                |
| 9   | Lamech   |            | 3130 BC |                |
| 10  | Noah     |            | 2948 BC | Flood          |
| 11  | Shem     |            | 2850?   |                |
| 12  | Arphaxad |            | 2800?   |                |
| 13  | Cainan   |            | 2700?   |                |
| 14  | Sala     | Salah      | 2650?   |                |
| 15  | Heber    | Eber       | 2600?   |                |
| 16  | Phalec   | Peleg      | 2500?   | Babel          |
| 17  | Ragau    | Reu        | 2400?   |                |
| 18  | Saruch   | Serug      | 2300?   |                |
| 19  | Nachor   | Nahor      | 2200?   |                |
| 20  | Thara    | Terah      | 2100?   |                |
| 21  | Abraham  |            | 2000 BC | Calling Out    |
| 22  | Isaac    |            | 1900 BC |                |
| 23  | Jacob    |            | 1836 BC |                |
| 24  | Judah    |            | 1768 BC | Selling Joseph |
| 25  | Pharez   |            | 1715 BC | Moved to Egypt |
| ... |          |            |         |                |
| 34  | David    |            | 1100 BC |                |

- B. Consider the family tree of Jesus. How many skeletons are hanging in His closet? Consider the sins of: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah. Those are just the ones recorded thus far in the book of Genesis.
- C. To study how Satan deceived God’s people with sin, one must study the entire Old Testament. The majority of the Jewish king were an evil and worshipped false gods. For over 4,000 years of recorded history through out the Old Testament it was a constant battle waged by Satan. He tried everything in his power to contaminate the Jewish race to prevent the birth of the Messiah. There is a scarlet thread from Genesis to Matthew that reveals the lineage of Jesus.

D. Points TO Ponder:

1. What were the consequences of Judah taking a wife from the Canaanites?
2. What is the differences between a woman getting pregnant in 2003 and one being with child 2,500 years ago?
3. Is Levirate marriages a good or bad thing?
4. Recap the lineage of Jesus thus far, beginning with Adam. Remember that human history is about 2,200 years old at this time.
5. What lessons can we learn from these historical figures and events? I think the message is a simple one:

---

---

---