

## Abounding Grace for Judah 10-23-2016

### Gen 38:24-30

*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." 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." 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. 27 When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. 28 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." 29 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. 30 Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.*

Gen 38 is **not a purposeless** lewd account....but rather a **beautiful example** of how **God** loves to bring **blessing from curses & redeem** those that **deserve destruction**.

- Gen **37**: is an account of **how** the nation of **Israel** wound up in **Egypt** rather than Canaan,
- Gen **38**: **tells us why** the Egyptian sojourn was **necessary**: to preserve **God's people** from becoming **conformed** to the **corrupt Canaanites** & to **force** them into a **distinct** people.
  - Hebrews were **willing** to **intermarry**, **Egyptians** would **never** consider. 43:32;46:34

Gen 38 **spans** about **20 yrs**—during which **Joseph was in Egypt**....he was lost to his family.

- Judah **left** his **family after** leading brothers to **sell Joseph** into slavery for **fellowship & union** with **ungodly Canaanites**. 38:1-11, 1 Cor. 15:33, 2 Cor 6:14
  - **For centuries Satan** has **used intermarriage** with the **ungodly** to **corrupt the godly**.
    - **Choose a mate** who **shares your faith** not one **who acquiesces to your faith**.

**Judah had 3 children, 2 of them God struck dead** due to their **wickedness & disobedience**.

- **Tamar**, the wife of 1<sup>st</sup> son **Er**, was now a **childless widow** and was **officially regarded as wife** of 3<sup>rd</sup> son **Shelah** because of "**levirate marriage**"....common in **Near East** then.
  - Judah had **no intention** to give **Tamar to Shelah** (thought **Tamar was jinxed**).
    - **Tamar knew Judah's intentions** so she **devised a strategy** to **provide for herself** when her **parents died**. 38:12-23

**For 3 generations** (Jacob, bro's, Tamar) **deceit** was involved using **garments & goats**.  
27:9-16, 37:31

- **The Seal** was a stamp **engraved** with a **unique** design: **ID** used for **all transactions**.
- **He didn't want to look too hard because the more** Judah **sought to find prostitute**, the **more** his folly **become public**.
  - **He was willing to keep his obligation** to a **prostitute**, but **not** to his own **daughter-in-law**.

**3 months later**, Judah **found out** Tamar **pregnant** out-of-wedlock!

- **This was not** mere **fornication**, but **adultery**, for she was **pledged to marry Shelah**.
- Judah **conveniently** calls for the **death penalty**. If Tamar is gone, **Shelah** can **marry another woman**. 38:24-26, Rom 2:1; Luke 12:2-3
  - Tamar **privately presented** Judah with the **evidence** & **Judah realized** he was a total **hypocrite** & **repented!**

**This is an example of Judah's great wickedness/sin** & the **Lord's holiness/justice** (kills evil **Er** & **Onan**) – beautiful example of **God's amazing grace!** 38:27-30, Rom 5:20, Ps 127:3

- **Perez & Zerah** are **signs that** Judah & Tamar's **sins are forgiven** & of a **new day dawning** with **God's favor**.
  - **God graciously gave** Judah **2 sons** **after striking dead** his **2 wicked sons**.
  - **He also compensated** Tamar for **no children** from **previous 2 husbands**.

The undeserved **blessings** did not end with the **twins birth**: **Judah**, gentile **Tamar** & son **Perez** (born thru **sordid affair**) are all **in line of Jesus the Christ**, the **Messiah**. Mt 1:1-3, Gen 49:9, Rev 5:5-6

- **On account of Jesus**, the **Lord shows favor** to **those who deserve judgment**.
  - **Christ did not hesitate to be associated** with **sinners saved by grace**.  
He is the **Lion of Judah!**

- He **joyfully gives** all the **redeemed His** beautiful **name** "Christian"

**God delights to display** His **power, grace & love** by bringing **blessings from curses** & **redeeming** those that **deserve destruction**.

- **Jesus will not reject you** for **bad decisions**, wrong path, or you're **horrible sins**.
  - **The same God** who **forgave/transformed/used Judah** can do **same for you**.
    - **Lion of messed up Judah** is also the **lamb slain** for the **messed up you**.

