

“An Unkept Promise”  
Genesis 38

v. 1 Q. Who is the featured player in this story?

A.

Note: Speculation ~ The \_\_\_\_\_ grief of his father and perhaps the unspoken \_\_\_\_\_ of the rest of his brothers for suggesting the sale of Joseph, may be the reason Judah decided to \_\_\_\_\_ himself from his family.

v. 2 Q. What did he do and what is it similar to?

A. He met and married a \_\_\_\_\_ woman much like Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ did.

Q. Why is this a surprising aspect of the narrative knowing what we know of his future lineage?

A. The tribe of Judah would prophetically hold the \_\_\_\_\_ title to which the \_\_\_\_\_ would come and ultimately fulfill.

vv. 3-5 Q. How many sons did she give birth to?

A.

v. 6 Q. What was his first-born's wife's name?

A.

Q. What is important about the first-born son?

A. He inherited a \_\_\_\_\_ blessing (possessions) and the \_\_\_\_\_ and civic head of his family.

v. 7. Q. How is Er described?

A.

Q. What did the Lord do to him? (a first – individually)

A.

Note: The text doesn't say, "...and he \_\_\_\_\_" as if God simply stopped \_\_\_\_\_ his life, but rather there was a decisive \_\_\_\_\_ that happened to him. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ time this phrased is used of God toward another person.

Q. Why do you think God did this in comparison to, for example, Cain?

A. We are not told. One can only surmise that there is a sin or a \_\_\_\_\_ of sin where God simply cannot tolerate it anymore.

Note: "Er" in Hebrew spelled backwards is the word for "\_\_\_\_\_" just as Noah's is "favor."

Note: One can also apply the future descriptive of God "having \_\_\_\_\_ upon whom He will have mercy, and I will have \_\_\_\_\_ on whom I will have compassion." (Cp. Ex. 33:19).

v. 8 Q. What was the cultural solution?

A.

"\_\_\_\_\_" is the Latin word for "brother-in-law." The Hebrew word is, "\_\_\_\_\_" It was an ancient \_\_\_\_\_ law that \_\_\_\_\_ a brother to marry his brother's widow if...his brother had no children (\_\_\_\_\_) to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of his family

line. Legally, the son would be given the \_\_\_\_\_ of his brother and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the firstborn.

The brother-in-law nor the sister-in-law were free to \_\_\_\_\_. In a crude way, this was to \_\_\_\_\_ the widow to have \_\_\_\_\_ economic security and protection.

v. 9 Q. What was Onan's response?

A. Thanks for the \_\_\_\_\_ but no thanks on the \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 10 Q. How did God respond to this action?

A. God \_\_\_\_\_ him.

v. 11 Q. What option did Judah end up taking?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ marriage. However, the language suggests that Judah never \_\_\_\_\_ on giving Shelah to her.

Rashi: "She is a woman of whom it may be \_\_\_\_\_ that the men she marries will always die young" (Genesis Rabbah 85:5). In other words, it must have something to do with \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 12 Q. What context do we find in this verse?

A.

1. "A number of years passed," insinuating that Shelah is of \_\_\_\_\_ age.
2. Judah's wife \_\_\_\_\_. He is now a widower.
3. Judah leaves to hang out with the guys \_\_\_\_\_ his sheep.

vv. 13-14 Q. What did Tamar do and why did she do it?

A.

1. Tamar \_\_\_\_\_ that her father-in-law was traveling near her.
2. She sat at the side of the road with a \_\_\_\_\_ veil pretending to be a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. She did this as \_\_\_\_\_ for Judah not giving her a husband – a family.

vv. 15-19 Q. What transpired?

A.

v. 15 Tamar \_\_\_\_\_ Judah.

v. 16 Judah \_\_\_\_\_ her.

Tamar asked what the \_\_\_\_\_ would be.

v. 17 The price: a \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 Since he was traveling and didn't have any goat \_\_\_\_\_ on him, she asked for something \_\_\_\_\_ that would cause him to come back for.

Judah didn't know what to offer her and asked her what would \_\_\_\_\_ the transaction.

Tamar asked for his personal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as well as his \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Judah's seal would have been a \_\_\_\_\_ that was carved with a uniquely distinguishing \_\_\_\_\_ he would have stamped \_\_\_\_\_ documents with. The chord would have been uniquely designed as well to carry the stone. His staff would also have had unique \_\_\_\_\_ on it to distinguish it from another's.

vv. 20-23 Q. What does this say about Judah?

A.

1. That he was a man of \_\_\_\_\_...at least in this instance.
2. More likely, he just wanted his valued personal \_\_\_\_\_ back.

v. 24 Q. What is the problem?

A. She became \_\_\_\_\_. (a problem for him!)

vv. 25 – 26 Q. How was it resolved?

A.

1. Tamar \_\_\_\_\_ the father through the personal effects she had. She did not \_\_\_\_\_ name him.
2. Judah \_\_\_\_\_ that he was the father. Publicly \_\_\_\_\_. She \_\_\_\_\_. The reason \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: This ends with an air of \_\_\_\_\_. It does not say that Judah married her but the fact that he was not \_\_\_\_\_ with her again infers it. She, therefore, was bound to a \_\_\_\_\_ marriage. Her children would have to live in a world that acknowledged that their \_\_\_\_\_ was also their \_\_\_\_\_.

vv. 27-30 Q. What was the result of her pregnancy?

A.

1. She gave birth to \_\_\_\_\_ boys.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ birth. One coming out a bit but going back in and the other then coming out first.

Key Question: Why include this story and why here?

A.

1. Per Ruth4:17, Tamar's son, Perez will be the father of \_\_\_\_\_, the father \_\_\_\_\_, the progenitor of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Judah will rise out these \_\_\_\_\_ to be a leader among Joseph's brothers for the \_\_\_\_\_ of his brothers and their families.

### **Application Questions:**

Q. How would you describe or what example could you provide of God working through a culturally acceptable action that is against His moral laws?

A.

Q. How do we navigate the idea of deception being apparently blessed by God? E.g. Abraham, Jacob, Tamar,...future...Rahab.

A.