

“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 Ruth 4:17, 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.