

## Chapter 38

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- 38:1 And it came to pass at that time,  
that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.
- 38:2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah;  
and he took her, and went in unto her.
- 38:3 And she conceived, and bare a son; and he called his name Er.
- 38:4 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and she called his name Onan.
- 38:5 And she yet again conceived, and bare a son; and called his name Shelah:  
and he was at Chezib, when she bare him.
- 38:6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn,  
whose name was Tamar.
- 38:7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD;  
and the LORD slew him.
- 38:8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy  
brother.
- 38:9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's  
wife,  
that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.
- 38:10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD:  
wherefore he slew him also.
- 38:11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law,  
Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown:  
for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did.  
And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.
- 38:12 And in process of time the daughter of Shuah  
Judah's wife died;  
and Judah was comforted, and went up unto his sheepshearers to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the  
Adullamite.
- 38:13 And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep.
- 38:14 And she put her widow's garments off from her,  
and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which is by the way to  
Timnath;  
for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife.
- 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face.
- 38:16 And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew  
not that she was his daughter in law.)  
And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?
- 38:17 And he said, *I will send thee a kid from the flock.*  
And she said, Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it?  
thought: *God, indeed, had a lot of work to do with mankind. Such a small price for such a large offering from a woman; especially, when one considers that she could become pregnant, deliver, and have another mouth to feed. That sort of outcome would mean that such a woman would have to be forever at the mercy of men who wanted to "come in unto" her. We, men, had a long, long, long way to go; and, surely, God was awfully tolerant of our carelessness about one another's lives.*
- 38:18 And he said, What pledge shall I give thee?  
And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand.

- And he gave it her, and came in unto her,  
and she conceived by him.
- 38:19 And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.
- 38:20 And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand:  
but he found her not.
- 38:21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where is the harlot, that was openly by the way side?  
And they said, There was no harlot in this place.
- 38:22 And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, that there was no harlot in this place.
- 38:23 And Judah said, Let her take it to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.
- 38:24 And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom.  
And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.
- 38:25 When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff.
- 38:26 And Judah acknowledged them,  
and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son.  
And he knew her again no more.
- 38:27 And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that,  
behold, twins were in her womb.
- 38:28 And it came to pass, when she travailed,  
that the one put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying,  
This came out first.
- 38:29 And it came to pass,  
as he drew back his hand, that,  
behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee:  
therefore his name was called Pharez.
- 38:30 And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand:  
and his name was called Zarah.