

## Defeat at Ai (Joshua 7)

August 4, 2016

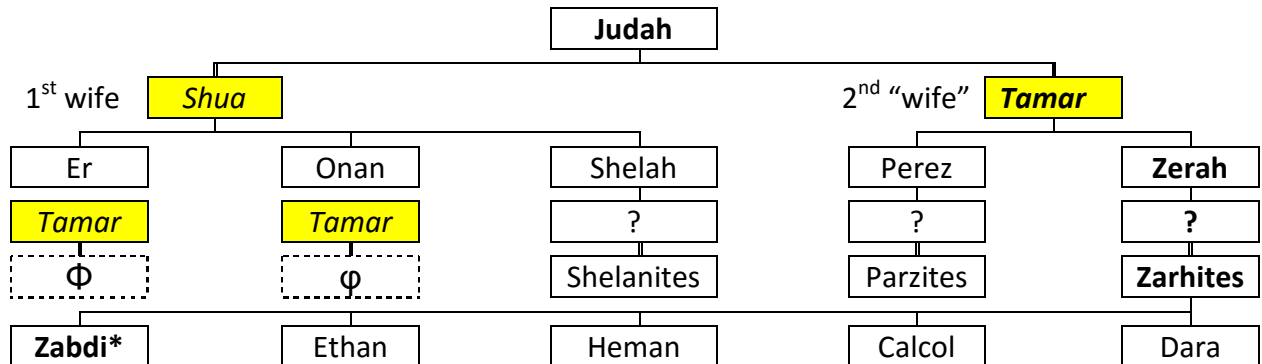
Water of Life

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### INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

Israel transgressed the ban (*hērem*), because Achan ben-Carmi (a Zarhite descended from Zabdi) took things under the ban, so the LORD's anger burned against Israel (7:1)

Cf. Joshua 6:18



Judah had three sons (Er, Onan, and Shelah) by his first wife, Shua. (Gen 38:2-5)

Er married Tamar. The LORD killed childless Er, who was wicked. (Gen 38:6-7)

Onan was supposed to perform the Levirate with Tamar (to continue Er's line), but practiced *coitus interruptus*. No child resulted. The LORD killed Onan. (Gen 38:8-10)

Judah promised to Tamar that when Shelah reached puberty that he would perform the Levirate, but (fearing that he would die like Er and Onan) broke his promise. (Gen 38:11-13)

After the allotted time of grief after Shua died, Tamar pretended to be a harlot, luring Judah. Judah left his signet, cord, and staff as surety for the promised payment. When Judah accused the pregnant Tamar of harlotry, she produced his signet, cord, and staff. Judah acknowledged his sin in not having Shelah perform the levirate. The resultant twin sons were Perez and Zerah. (Gen 38:14-30)

Numbers 26:19-21 briefly explains that Judah's clans consisted of the Shelanites. The Parzites, and the Zarhites (because Er and Onan died childless).

My theory is that Zabdi (also called Zimri) was a first-generation Zarhite. My theory is also that Carmi was the name of Achan's father. However, I am not dogmatic on my understanding of how Joshua 7:1 relates to 1 Chronicles 2:5-7.

**The spies Joshua (near Beth Aven; east of Bethel) reported that only 2,000-3,000 warriors were needed for the insignificant Ai, but thirty-six (of 3,000) died as Israel fled down the descent from the quarries, disheartening Israel (7:2-5)**

Where is Ai?

**Joshua and the elders mourned; Joshua asked the LORD why He brought Israel across the Jordan to deliver them to the Amorites—because the Canaanites (etc.) would hear and [be emboldened] to surround and annihilate Israel; tarnishing the LORD's name (7:6-9)**

**The LORD commanded Joshua to rise; Israel transgression of the ban, treating banned things as their own caused their own destruction before their enemies and (if continued) would cause God to withdraw from Israel (7:10-12)**

**The LORD commanded Joshua to sanctify the people (because a banned thing was in Israel's midst), so Israel was to gather according to tribes, families, and households, so the LORD could deal with the transgressor (7:13-15)**

**Early the next morning, the tribe of Judah was singled-out, then the Zarhite clan was singled-out, then Zabdi's family was singled-out, then Achan (7:16-18)**

**Joshua told Achan to glorify God by confessing, so Achan said that he saw; coveted; took a Babylonian garment, 5 lbs of silver, and 1¼ lbs of gold; and buried them in his tent (7:19-21)**

How does this relate to confession in 1 John 1:9?

**The items were brought to Joshua, then Achan and his family were stoned & burned (7:22-25)**

**The Lord relented from His anger, so the place became known as the Valley of Achor (7:26)**

**CONCLUSION**