

God Preserves Judah's Line Despite Judah & His Sons (Gen 38:1–30)

Grace Chapel March 31, 2010 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

The Placement of this Passage

(38:1–11) Judah and His Sons Compromise the Lineage and Are Disciplined

(38:1–5) Judah left his brothers to find a Canaanite wife who bore three sons

(38:6–10) Judah gave Tamar as wife to his 1st & 2nd sons, who died childless as a result of evil

(38:6–7) God slew Er (Judah's eldest) because he was evil

(38:8–10) God slew Onan (Judah's 2nd son) for violating Levirate provisions

Digression: Some related topics

(38:11) Judah disobediently failed to provide his 3rd son for the Levirate (putting his own selfish interests ahead of continuing a lineage)

(38:12–23) Tamar realized that Judah lied about providing his third son as a Levirate, so she pretended to be a prostitute, causing Judah to function as Levirate

(38:12) Judah's wife died, the time of mourning passed & Judah went up with Hirah to Timnah to shear sheep

(38:13–15) Tamar realized that Judah would not provide his third son as a Levirate, so she dressed as a prostitute [so he would be the Levirate]

(38:16–19) Judah promised her a kid goat and gave his seal & staff in pledge

(38:20–23) Judah could not find her to give the kid, so she kept his seal & staff

(38:24–26) Judah learned Tamar was pregnant & ordered her to be burned, but she proved he was the father, so he admitted that he was in the wrong & she was in the right

(38:27–30) Tamar bore twins, the hand of the second born (Zerah) appeared first, but Perez was the first to be born

SUMMARY