

IS ANYONE BLAMELESS? ~ GENESIS 38:1-30

→Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

INTRODUCTION

→SHOW ENQUIRER OH (here is a cover I saw recently -

Genesis 37:36 (NIV) Meanwhile, the Midianites **SOLD JOSEPH** in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

WHY IS THIS STORY HERE? Wiersbe

- **SUSPENSE** - make us wonder
- **TIME** - shows how LONG Joseph is in Slavery in Egypt
- **HISTORY** - accurate account of what happened
- **MORALITY** - show the danger of living like the culture
- **CONTRAST** - Judah & Joseph ...and... Judah & Jacob
- **GRACE** - Shows the START of changes in Judah

JUDAH'S EVIL SONS ~Genesis 38:1-11

[1] At that time, Judah left his brothers and went down to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah. [2] There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her and lay with her; [3] she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er. [4] She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. [5] She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him. [6] Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. [7] But Er, Judah's firstborn, was WICKED in the Lord's sight; so the Lord put him to death. [8] Then Judah said to Onan, "Lie with your brother's wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to produce offspring for your brother." [9] But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so whenever he lay with his brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground to keep from producing offspring for his brother. [10] What he did was wicked in the Lord's sight; so he put him to death also. [11] Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Live as a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up." For he thought, "He may die too, just like his brothers." So Tamar went to live in her father's house.

APPLICATION

→God's JUSTICE and Judgment are CERTAIN

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 (NIV) I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! [4] He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and ALL HIS WAYS ARE JUST. A faithful God who does no wrong, UPRIGHT AND JUST IS HE.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is PATIENT with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

→God's Justice and Judgment are Certain (the TIMING is ALWAYS His)

JUDAH'S IMMORAL LIFE ~ Genesis 38:12-23

[12] After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him. [13] When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep," [14] she took off her widow's clothes, covered herself with a VEIL to disguise herself, and then sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that, though Shelah had now grown up, she had not been given to him as his wife. [15] When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, **for she had covered her face.** [16] Not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the roadside and said, "Come now, let me sleep with you." "And what will you give me to sleep with you?" she asked. [17] "I'll send you a young goat from my flock," he said. "Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?" she asked. [18] He said, "What pledge should I give you?" "Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand," she answered. **So HE GAVE** them to her and **SLEPT WITH her**, and she **BECAME PREGNANT** by him. [19] After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow's clothes again. [20] Meanwhile Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get his pledge back from the woman, but he did not find her. [21] He asked the men who lived there, "Where is the shrine prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?" "There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here," they said. [22] So he went back to Judah and said, "I didn't find her. Besides, the men who lived there said, 'There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here.'" [23] Then Judah said, "Let her keep what she has, or we will become a laughingstock. After all, I did send her this young goat, but you didn't find her."

JUDAH'S ADMISSION OF GUILT ~ Genesis 38:24-26

[24] About **three months later** Judah was told, "Your **daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.**" Judah said, "Bring her out and have her burned to death!" [25] As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. "I am pregnant by the man who owns these," she said. And she added, "See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are." [26] **Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah."** And he did not sleep with her again.

APPLICATION

→ Recognition of WRONG - the Start of CHANGE

True Change Comes From...

- RECOGNIZING I am wrong
- ADMITTING I am wrong
- REPENTING of that wrong

JUDAH'S GRANDSONS ~ Genesis 38:27-30

[27] **When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.** [28] As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand; so the midwife took a scarlet thread and tied it on his wrist and said, "This one came out first." [29] But when he drew back his hand, his brother came out, and she said, "So this is how you have broken out!" And he was named Perez. [30] Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out and he was given the name Zerah.

APPLICATION

→ We See God's Incredible GRACE

You clearly see the GRACE of God woven through the lives of Judah and Tamar and they become ancestors of the Messiah. Not because they are examples of purity and godliness. But because God pours out His GRACE on them. Boice

Luke 2:29-32 (NIV) Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. [30] For my eyes have seen your salvation, [31] which you have prepared in the sight of all people, [32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

TAKE AWAY ??

→ God Uses The WEAK Not The Strong

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NIV) Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. [28] He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, [29] so that no one may boast before him.