



THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

JUDAH AND TAMAR

GENESIS 38

The dangers of living in a sex-saturated society

- Look, this is in my “Top 10 least favorite chapters in the Bible” list.
- After you have read this chapter, we are tempted to wish that it had been left out of the Bible . . . but we can’t. ☹️
- In this chapter you will read names like Judah and Tamar, Pharez and Zerah.
- If you think they sound familiar, it is because you have read them in the ***first chapter of Matthew***. They are in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ—Judah and not Levi.

WHAT A FAMILY LEGACY!

All of this reveals to us that Jacob spent too much time in Padan-Aram accumulating a fortune rather than teaching his children godliness.

- Jacob was so busy down there contending with Uncle Laban that he didn't have much time for his boys.
- The chapter reveals the necessity of getting every family away from the degrading influence of the Canaanites.
- What a mess—sin upon sin upon sin. Remember, they were told as a people to not take wives from the Canaanites in **Genesis 24:3-4**.

LEVIRATE MARRIAGE AND ONAN'S SIN

- The Levirate (brother-in-law) marriage was already a custom in those days that, if a man died without children, his next younger brother should marry his wife and “*raise up seed to his brother.*” The first son from that marriage would be recognized legally as the son and heir of the dead brother; part of the Mosaic law. **Deut. 25:5-10**
- The term “onanism” has come to be applied to masturbation; but it is clear that God’s judgment was not visited on Onan neither for practicing masturbation nor for so-called coitus interruptus.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS ABOUT SEXUAL ISSUES

- Let's be clear, the Bible does clearly condemn adultery, lust, fornication, homosexuality, incest, and sodomy.
- For sexual practices that are not either explicitly approved or condemned in the Bible—like masturbation—they should be evaluated in the light of the biblical principles regarding “*doubtful things*” in general. **Rom. 14:1-16**
- Long and short of it . . . does it glorify the Lord?
1 Cor. 10:31 and **Col. 3:17**
- Do these things take mastery over you? **1 Cor. 6:9-14**

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES OF TIMNATH

- We get a picture of Judah as a promiscuous man. He had propositioned the Canaanite woman, Shuah's daughter. Now he does the same thing with Tamar.
- **Verses 21-24** talk about a double standard. Make no mistake, God doesn't approve of these things, beloved.
- It reminds us of the time the prophet Nathan went in to David in **2 Sam. 12:1-15** and told him the story about the fellow who had one little ewe lamb.
- Be careful about failing to see your own sin.

LESSONS FOR TODAY

- Unfortunately, this story sounds a lot like our nation.
- This is a message to every person flirting with sexual sin and to our nation as a whole—especially our leaders.
- Beloved, the Word of God is powerful, and God is looking for clean vessels through whom He can give it out.
- Judah had lowered himself to the level of the Canaanites, and look at the results (**v. 27-30**). Let's not repeat that sin.

*He was made sin for us, He who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God. **2 Cor. 5:21***