

GENESIS 38 Judah and Tamar

Book of Mysteries, day 192 The Secret of Makhzor (Yon Kippur)

We just began the saga of Joseph's life and now a chapter concerning Judah is inserted. Why?

First and foremost, the incident with Judah and Tamar is important in the line of Messiah. And lessons to be learned.

At this time, Joseph has been taken to Egypt and Jacob is grieving for his lost son. Reuben has lost his firstborn inheritance. Number 2 and 3 sons, Simeon and Levi, are also in bad graces with Jacob over their great sin in Shechem. Next in line is Judah, but he has turned away from his family and become involved with the Canaanites

Despite that, and unknown to Judah at that point, God chose him to be the line from which Messiah would come. Judah, as we will see, was not cooperating in God's plan, so something had to correct that.

This should be a reminder that God has plans for you, long before you may even come to know God; before you turn your life over to him; when you may be living in sin, but down the road He interrupts your wayward path and begins to mold and use you for his purposes.

So it was with Judah. He began to associate with pagan Canaanites, in the nearby town of Adullam, which led to his marrying a Canaanite woman. She brought idolatry with her into the marriage, which undoubtedly influenced their sons who became very wicked.

Had God allowed the Hebrew to remain in Canaan at this time, the few would have eventually corrupted the gene pool and their faith by intermarriage with the locals. The Egyptians mostly kept themselves separate from other peoples. All along, the plan was for them to be in Egypt some 400 plus years, building their population until Canaanites had reached their peak in Evilness and God's time.

Adullam means "a hiding place," or "refuge." Joshua was to wipe out this town which was also the location of the cave of Adullam where David would one day hide from King Saul.

Chapter 38, verses 1-2

Judah 'turned into' a certain Adullamite- Hebrew meaning of that phrase is Judah turned away from his family (for a time.)

His friendship with the Canaanite introduced him to a local woman, whom he married instead of finding a bride within his own family. God doesn't even honor her by using her name.

Verses 3-5

Three sons. Er, meaning "watchful" or "awake," but there is a Hebrew pun here. Er in reverse spells "Evil."

Onan means "vigorous," but he didn't use his strength for God.

Shelah means "request." He would be "requested" by Tamar as a husband.

The place of Shelah's birth means "falsified." Judah gave a false promise to Tamar.

Verses 6-8

It was a father's duty to find a bride for his son. Judah chose a Canaanite girl named Tamar for his firstborn, Er. Aptly named by God, Er was so wicked The Lord doesn't give us any details. Jewish writings say Er badly abused Tamar.

God took him out of the picture.

It was the custom then, and later God gave the Hebrews the Law of Levirate Marriage. If a man died without a son, his brother was to marry his widow and produce a child for the deceased to inherit his possessions and carry on the line. (Deut. 25:5)

Verses 9-11

Onan showed himself to be selfish, thinking only of his own physical gratification, thereby dishonoring

his brother. Because of this, God took his life, also.

Now, Judah, instead of recognizing their sins, blamed Tamar. She must be some kind of jinx. A curse must be upon her. If he gives his last son to her the same may happen. So he promises Shelah, but with the excuse he is too young and sends Tamar back to her father in humiliation. Judah hopes in time she may tire of waiting and find someone else.

Verses 12-14

She waited and she waited. Her life was on hold. You know how important children were to women; self-worth and medicare for old age.

In the meantime, Judah's wife died and he needed to fill his life so he went with his men to the sheep shearing. People always love a reason to celebrate and sheep shearing time gave cause to party and work. Wild parties.

Tamar had had enough of waiting on Judah to fulfill his obligation and when she heard he was headed for Timnah she took off her widow's clothing. She dressed seductively and wrapped a veil around herself as a temple prostitute. They wore veils as a bride for Astarte, the same goddess of fertility we've read of before. Just another name for Aphrodite, Artimus. Isis, Kali, Ishtar, etc.

She found a perfect spot, "in the eye of the landscape," where he wouldn't miss seeing her.

Seems she was a pretty good judge of her father-in-law's character.

Verses 15-18

Notice that Judah approached her and propositioned her.

He "turned into her" 'Natah,' meaning "to bend away." He was turning from his moral path.

Yeshua tells us to stay on the narrow path; to neither look to the left or to the right. Keep your eyes on the Prize.

Tamar was wise enough to ask for a pledge of security that he would deliver the kid as promised.

Three items represented what was needed for witnessing.

The signet ring used to seal documents with his authority as patriarch of his family, the cord on which he wore it around his neck, and his staff. No doubt marked as therefore recognized by all as Judah's.

Verses 19-23

She and Judah went their separate ways and Judah, as promised, sent Hirah with a kid to pay her and collect his stuff.

Hirah found she didn't exist!

Judah then decided not to try further to find her. It could be an embarrassment for people to find out.

Thus, he was admitting he had done a shameful thing.

"Let her keep my stuff. I kept my end of the bargain."

Verse 24

Three months later... Pregnant women in Old Testament times kept to themselves at home for the first three months. A picture of this is in Luke's writing concerning Mary's first 3 months.

Tamar could no longer conceal her pregnancy and someone was more than happy to inform Judah. "It was "boldly exposed!" Don't you just love gossip?

Jewish people were to be the "wife" of Yahoveh. Her action would have been viewed as adultery against the Lord.

What Tamar did was an act of desperation, but very determined and brave on her part, knowing what she might face.

There was a big double standard concerning adultery then. Women received much harsher punishment than men.

"Bring her out and burn her!" How self-righteous of Judah.

Verses 25-26

"She was more righteous." Tsadach means "righteous."

When confronted with his own possessions, he owns up to being the one involved in the disgraceful matter, and in front of everyone. A humiliating experience for him, but God uses moments like that to

to teach us and begin remaking us into what He wants of us.

Judah had been ready to kill Tamar for a sin of which he was equally guilty. He needed to be confronted of his own sin in order to stop the hypocrisy.

Judah was being remade. He took in Tamar, caring for her and her sons from that time on.

Verses 27-30

Twins again! Ta'om (Hebrew), Thom, Thomas, Tomas; in Greek, Didymus.

It was important to know who received the birthright of Er, so a thread was tied on the first.

A scarlet thread-"Shaw nee" same consonant spelling as word, "second" Another punishment

As in another set of twins, God chose the second over the first.

Breech be upon thee means "breaking forth is to be your character."

Pharez-"broken out"

Ze rach-"shining" or "come out, appear" Also, related to word zara, "to sow" But Zarach was not the seed of Messiah; he only appeared to be that at first.

Zerach was recognized as the son of Er and Pharez was the son of Judah in the line of Messiah.

The mention of a scarlet thread runs through the Old Testament connecting line of Messiah.

We find it in Joshua 2:18 concerning Rahab, another descendant of Yeshua, when she and her family were saved through her faith.

Ruth 4:9-22 Mentions Pharez and Zerach at the birth of Obed, David's grandfather who were also in the Messianic line. Other instances of scarlet threads are found in Exodus 26:1b and 28:6, where the Jews were to use those threads in garments and curtains for the tabernacle.

Then, there was the scarlet thread tied on the scapegoat on Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement.

Jews knew their sin had to be covered by blood from a spotless sacrifice. We know that sacrifice was Christ's atoning work on the cross in shedding of His blood.

There are four miracles recorded by the Jewish priests that occurred on Yom Kippur in the 40 years prior to the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. (Around 30 A.D.)

1. Temple gate (those high doors) closed at night were found open in the morning.
2. Leviticus 16-High Priest would cast lots over 2 goats(stones taken from his breastplate were used as lots); one to be sacrificed on altar, the other driven into the wilderness. Priest's hands would each be on head of a goat. For 40 years the lot always fell on the left hand. Odds of this to happen every year is 5,500, 000,000 to 1!
3. At night the western light of the menorah went out. This menorah was to burn perpetually and was to be used to light the other lamps.
4. The scarlet thread on goat's horn always before turned white to show their sins and been atoned for. During those last 40 years the thread remained red.

Four women are mentioned in Messiah's lineage.

1. Tamar, which means "palm tree." A root reaching to the sky; the dates on the palm picture a sweetness of life and springs of living water to feed it

2. Rahab

3. Ruth

4. Bathsheba (Married to a Hittite, so possibility she was also a Hittite)

Messiah's ancestry finds all kinds of sinful people that you would not imagine there. Because of that, all of Messiah's glory is derived from Himself. It's all about Him.

"When sin abounds, grace much more abounds."

And Judah is a picture for us of God's grace. He was chosen to be in the line of Yeshua Hamachiach despite his sins.