

WHERE SIN ABOUNDED, GRACE DID MUCH MORE ABOUND! **(Genesis 38)**

● **Why does God include Genesis 38 since Joseph is nowhere to be found in this chapter?**

- 1) Because this is the toledot of _____, not merely of Joseph. (37:2)
- 2) Because God is going to explain how the line of the Messiah was providentially _____.
- 3) Because important future _____ of the Genesis account would be a mystery without this chapter.
- 4) Because this chapter explains the path to _____ transformation & prominence for _____.
- 5) Because this chapter will demonstrate a significant _____ between Judah's failure (38) and Joseph's success (39) with dealing with sexual temptation.
- 6) Because this demonstrates the problems of _____ & why going to Goshen would be a future necessity for Israel for several reasons.
- 7) Because God will put on display His _____ in multiple ways.

I. WHERE SIN ABOUNDED ... (38:1-11) "It came to pass at that time" ... after Joseph had been sold into slavery in Egypt (37:36).

A. Judah's DEPARTURE from His BROTHERS. (38:1) When did this happen chronologically & what was the nature of the departure geographically & spiritually?

B. Judah's INTERMARRIAGE & CHILDREN (38:2-5) What did Judah do and what was the problem with this? What did this result in and what are the names of the three children? What can we learn from this?

C. Tamar's MARRIAGES. (38:6-10)

1) Marriage #1: Er married Tamar as arranged by Judah. (38:6-7)

- What was Tamar's lineage? Comments on arranged marriages:
- What is God's commentary on Er and its outcome? Why? (38:7)

2) Marriage #2: Onan married Tamar as encouraged by Judah. (38:8-11) What were Judah's instructions to Onan & how does this fit with the code of Hammurabi & the Law - Deut. 25:5-10?

- What are God's purposes for marriage?
- Did Onan's fulfill his moral responsibility? Why?
- What were God's perspective and actions toward Onan?
- What were Judah's instruction to Tamar but his unfaithfulness in fulfilling his promise?

II. **GRACE DID MUCH MORE ABOUND. (38:12-30)** “*After a long time*” {literally, “many days” - app. 20 years later}

A. Tamar’s DECEPTIVE PLOT. (38:12-14) What were Tamar’s actions upon hearing that Judah was going up to Timnah? What motivated Tamar to do this? What did this result in?

B. Judah’s SIN with Tamar. (38:15-23)

- The temptation (vs. 15)
- The temptation agreed to (vs. 16)
- The payment for sin (vs. 17)
- The pledge (vs. 18)
- The sin committed (vs. 19)
- Judah’s attempt to keep his word to Tamar (vs. 20-23)

C. Tamar’s PREGNANCY Revealed & Judah’s PROPOSED PUNISHMENT of Tamar. (38:24)

D. Tamar’s DEFENSE & Judah’s OPEN ADMISSION. (38:25-26)

E. The BIRTH OF TWINS. (38:27- 30) What are their names & similarities to Jacob & Esau?

F. CLOSING LESSONS TO LEARN & APPLY: What do we learn in this chapter about ...

1. Temptation?

2. Sin?

3. Singleness?

4. Widowhood?

5. Marriage?

6. Family?

7. God?

- a. His character
- b. His promises
- c. His providence

8. Grace?

- a. In sanctification for Judah
- b. In pregnancy for Tamar
- c. In salvation for the World