



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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and he was at Chezib, when she bare him.

We have a total of three sons listed here born to Judah by Shuah. The sons were born to a Israelite man and a woman of the Canaanites. There is some disagreement if he married her or only had children by her even though in verse 12 she is called his wife. If it was a marriage in all likelihood, he married without it being the will of God. One cause for this reasoning is that the line of Messiah does not pass through any of these three sons.

III- Judah's Sons Wife:

Notice it is sons, plural, and wife, singular. We find this text in *Genesis 38:6ff And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar. 7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him. 8 And Judah said unto Onan, [the second son of Judah] Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother. 9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother. 10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also.*

We have the firstborn son of Judah, Er, being married to Tamar. The ungodliness is seen again here as he was so wicked that God slew him. We are not told any specific sins only that he was wicked.

Now we see one of the customs of the days of the Patriarchs'. The custom of the day, known as Levirate marriage, was that a brother would take the wife of his deceased brother and have children for him. We see this later become part of the Mosaic Law in *Deut 25*. We see this in a question to Christ in *Matthew 22:24* *Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.*

So, the second born son is married to Tamar. He refused to have a child with her and we see the Lord struck him down also. Some have speculated that God did not want these ungodly men to be the one through which Messiah would pass.

IV- A Promise to Tamar:

Genesis 38:11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

Judah asks Tamar to go back to her father's house until his youngest son is old enough to marry and then they would be married. Judah makes this promise to Tamar.



Coordinates:
Gen 38:1-30

Sights to See:

- 1- God is concerned with those that His people choose to become their mates.**
- 2- Sin has always been a serious matter to God.**
- 3- Breaking of a promise can have unwanted consequences. We should endeavor to keep our word when we give it on our honor.**
- 4- God is the only one who can take a wrong and make it right by grace.**
- 5- Many times the things we accuse other of are the things that we have in our lives and will not admit.**
- 6- God wants all nations, tongues and peoples to know Him and come into a covenant relationship with Him.**

