

Introduction to Genesis 38



It's not nice

At that time, Judah left his brothers and went down to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah. v1

After betraying his brother Joseph, he leaves home.



Just be careful who you choose as friends

There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua.
v2

Judah must have
been in his early
twenties now.



There have been problems
with marrying a Canaanite
girl before.
Genesis 26:34-35

He married her and lay with her; she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er. She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him.

v2-5



Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. v6



Was she a local girl – we are not told.

But Er, Judah`s firstborn, was wicked in the LORD`s sight; so the LORD put him to death. v7

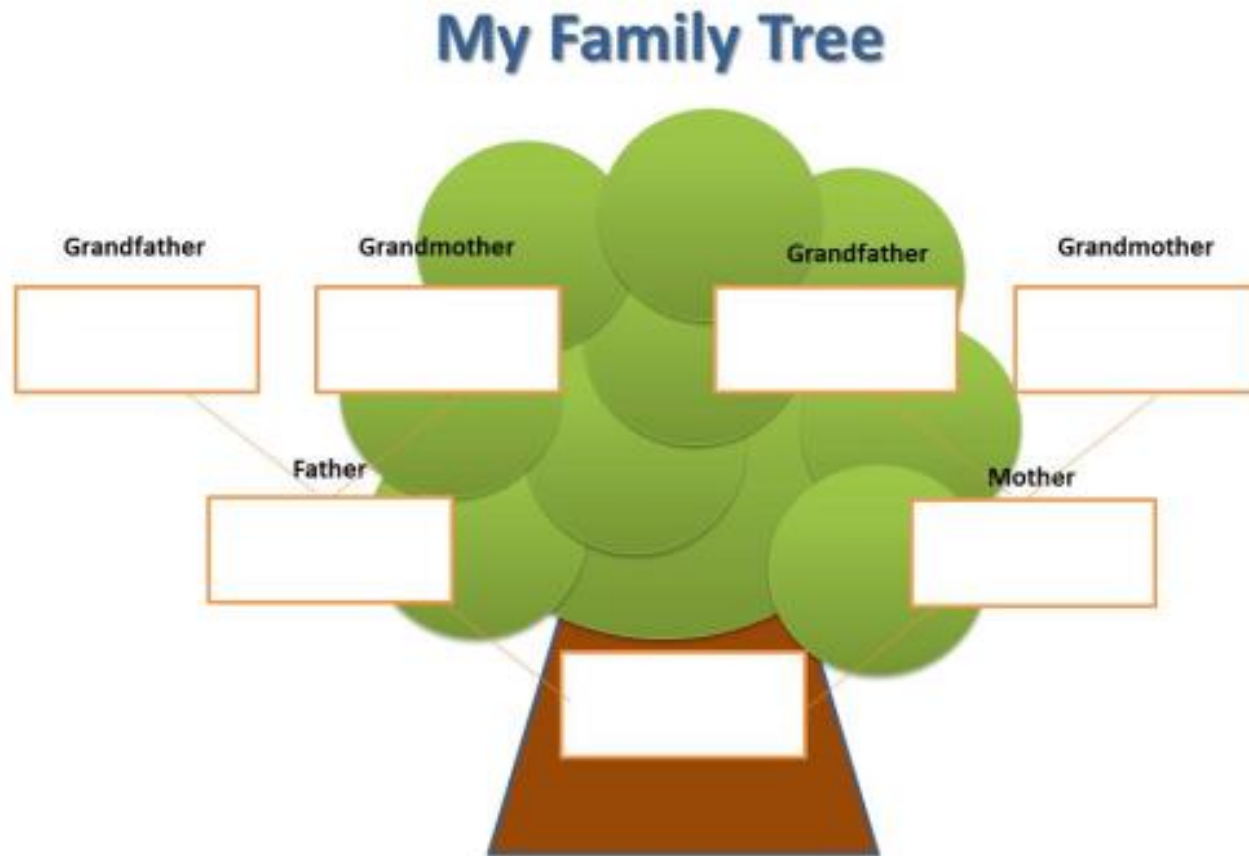


The 'first' grandson – was removed. God sees everything!

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."

v8

Preserve the family line.



This must have been a custom among the surrounding peoples

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. What he did was wicked in the LORD`s sight; so he put him to death also. v9-10



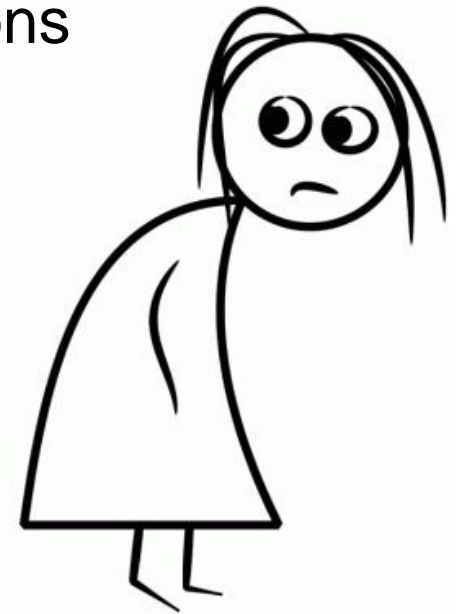
....

Using people thinking there are no consequences ?

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. v11



Secretly blaming her instead of his sons



Why didn't he let her be free to remarry rather than trapping her in a false promise ?

After a long time Judah`s wife, the daughter of Shua, died. v12

Judah is older now
Age doesn't
always = wisdom



Tamar is forgotten. Tragedy strikes- he loses his wife

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.

v12



When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep," 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.

v13-14



She eventually realizes that
she has been deceived

so

prepare for PLAN B

How did she find out ?

Perhaps she thought Shelah
might pass that way

When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.

v15



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."

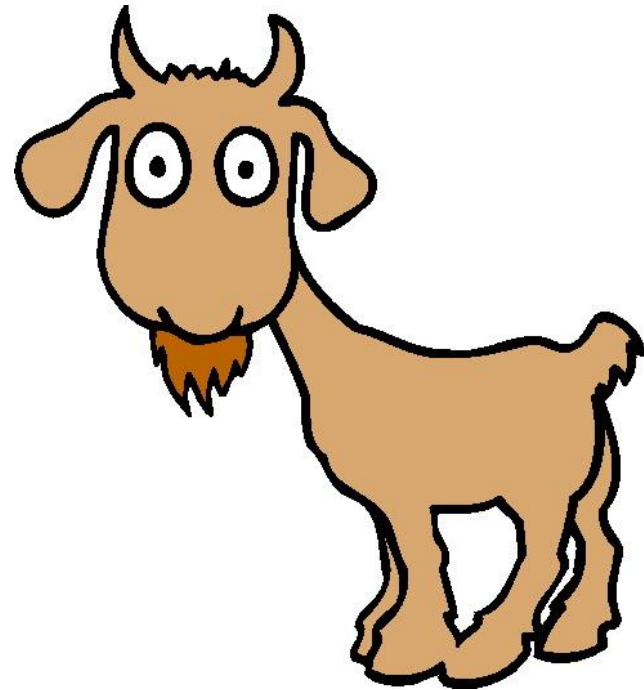
v16

Entertaining wrong thoughts will lead to wrong actions



"And what will you give me to sleep with you?" she asked. "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. He said, "What pledge should I give you?" "Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand," she answered. v16-18

Sell your soul for a goat ?



He's not to be trusted – he has lied before

So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him. After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow`s clothes again. v18-19



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 he asked the men who lived there, "Where is the shrine prostitute who beside the road at Enaim?" "There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here," they said.

v20-21



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.`" 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." v22-23



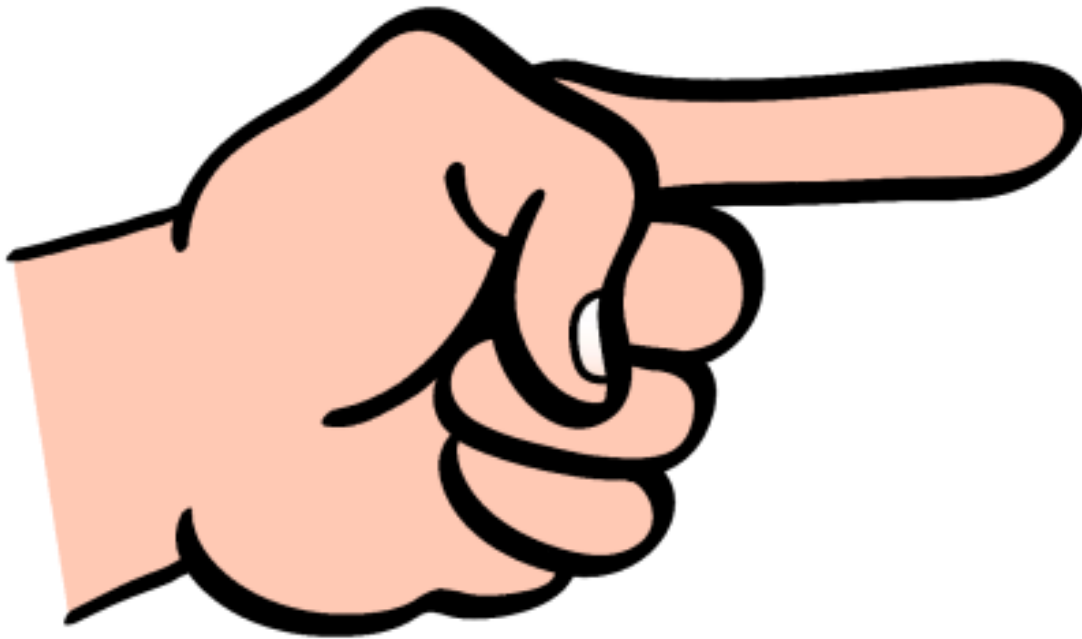
He is more concerned about his public image than God's view of him.

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!"

v24

Quick to judge:- shame on the family

**Does the guilty man
get away
with it ?**

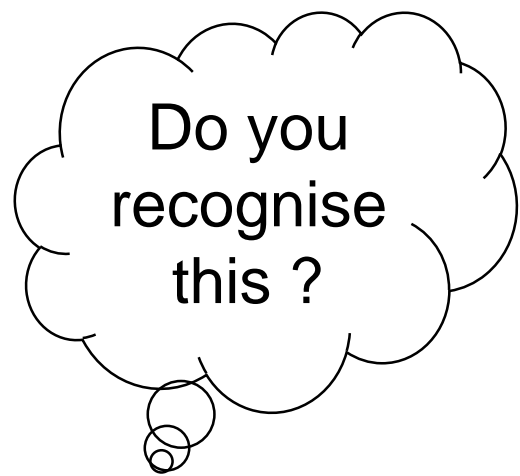


How many fingers point back ?

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."

v25

Numbers 32:23 ..you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.



Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah." v26



Half an admission !

It's about his withholding his son.
What about his immorality ?

What is Repentance?

It is a change of mind, that leads to a change of heart, that leads to a change in actions.

This change involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God.

You don't do it again !

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. 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." 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. Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out and he was given the name Zerah.

v27-30

Perez
=
"Breach"



Zerah
=
"Glow"

Were they fraternal or identical twins ?

What's the point ?

Moses knows that Judah's line is going to be the royal line



Perez



David

What's the point ?

God knows that this is the Messiah's 'family'



What a mix !

This is why Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

What's the point ?

Compare the two men – choices and consequences



There are ALWAYS consequences to our choices

Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live