

No  
Harlot in This  
Place

**Genesis 38:1 – 39:2**



~ We took to the sky in our last report from our Spiritual Safari, and we are still gaining altitude in this report. We can see Judah far below - “....going down from his brethren” in verse one, so we are going to continue to ascend to get as far away as we can possibly get from Judah! This is literally the worst chapter in the Bible. It is as questionable as most contemporary literature. The difference is that chapter thirty-eight is written as a warning to believers in the Bible. This is not entertainment. This chapter is relentlessly harsh in its condemnation of sin. Modern authoring would turn this into a story of a hero woman who is smart and clever and, ultimately, victimized by a male. Well, God condemns this record of events because it’s sick - and we see here just how far we, as Christians – God’s chosen people - can sink into the sins of the world without even realizing it on any level.

I think Jacob spent just a little bit too much time in Padanaram amassing his fortune by ripping off Uncle Laban - because all of Jacob’s sons are deeply troubled young men. Remember, God said, “I know Abraham will command his household and his children after him and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring that upon Abraham that which He has spoken concerning him.” Well, Jacob was so busy competing with Laban that there wasn’t much time for raising his sons properly, apparently. Each one gets into their own debacle of sin – but why would God bring Judah here like this – SO publicly? Why are we calling him out; especially at this place in Genesis?

In our last report we saw that these names are part of the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ. This will tie in a fact later that Christ came into the human family; but the other reason for this is because, after this chapter, we are going down into Egypt. Joseph has already been taken there as a slave and we’re just going to go catch back up with him. That most unpleasant set of

circumstances will pave the way for the children of Israel to be removed from the land of the abominable Canaanites, which is where they were at this time – and which is where they should not have been! God is going to take them to the secluded land of Goshen. If God had not interceded and moved upon them then this family would have succumbed completely to the debauchery of the Canaanites; and would have ended up dead from the famine – or worse! So, let's get the unpleasantness of this report behind us so we can move on....

### **XXXVIII**

***1 And it came to pass at that time that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.***

***2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.***

***3 And she conceived, and bare a son; and he called his name Er.***

***4 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and she called his name Onan.***

***5 And she yet again conceived, and bare a son; and called his name Shelah: and he was at Chezib, when she bare him.***

***6 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, 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.**

**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.**

**12 And in process of time the daughter of Shuah Judah's wife died; and Judah was comforted, and went up unto his sheepshearers to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.**

**13 And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep.**

~ We're seeing a family that is abjectly mired in sin, my beloved; and this becomes applicable to us in our day when we have such an emphasis on sex in our godless society! The custom of that day was for these sons to take this woman and marry her to carry on their brother's name; but the two of them refuse to do it, sort of. I mean, they went in, but, you know....so, they were smitten with death. Judah commanded Tamar to go to her father's house and wait because this other son is growing up fast. Apparently, Judah and Timnath are business associates in the sheep trade. Tamar finally comes to the conclusion that she isn't going to be married to Shelah as promised. There is so much we could say here but we need to move on....

**14 And she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which is by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife.**

**15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a harlot; because she had covered her face.**

**16 And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?**

**17 And he said, I will send thee a kid from the flock. And she said, Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it?**

**18 And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand. And he gave it her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him.**

**19 And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.**

**20 And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not.**

**21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where is the harlot, that was openly by the way side? And they said, There was no harlot in this place.**

**22 And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, that there was no harlot in this place.**

**23 And Judah said, Let her take it to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.**

**24 And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.**

~ This double standard by Judah is typical of all human nature – and it is awful; and it also reveals the imperative necessity of God to get this family out of Canaan. This affair is unspeakable, and this family is out of control completely. This thing Judah is doing is wholly unacceptable. Judah can see the sin in other people, but he won't look at his own sin. It's interesting

how we see sin in other people's lives that we either cannot admit or refuse to recognize in ourselves! This is this man's daughter-in-law we're talking about. Judah is the line by which Christ comes to the earth! This pagan heathen custom amongst the Canaanites is the practice they were all living in! It's merciless and barbaric; and the Canaanites are all gone today as a result. You won't find a single Canaanite running around anywhere. That alone should send a strong message to ANY person! Many people reject this message because they wonder why it's all in the Bible like this. Well, friends, it's in the Bible to warn me and you of acts like this that we ought not to do – because we're apt to do them.

America and its so-called "sexual revolution" of the nineteen seventies brought about our evolved contemporary "freedom of sex." Sexual perversions are not revolutionary nor are they modern, as we see here, and as we saw at Sodom and Gomorrah. From the beginning of time man has been pornographically perverted and base minded. The lost man and woman have freedom of sex and the result is those nations live on the lowest possible plane of existence that man can live on. We are blessed in America today; but, someday, and maybe sooner than later, that's all going to come to a screeching halt; but, perhaps I digress, sort of...

***25 When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff.***

***26 And Judah was absolutely stunned, shocked and ashamed and he acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.***

~ Judah likely had lifelong psychological trauma leading to dysfunctional sexual relations, in general, after this incident, would be my guess; because this was something that was repulsive, even to him! This is the way everyone around them was living, though; and these are the things everyone around this family of Jacob and his sons were doing. God will do well to bring them out of this place and segregate them into Egypt; and that's a critically harsh judgment, as we're going to see. Now, we put our

plane on auto-pilot in our Spiritual Safari because all these things happened unto them as examples unto us! So, let's observe for a moment through our telescope what the naked eye cannot see, shall we?

I hear so many people who say that if we are going to reach the lost we have to get down on their level. Well, that's exactly why I took to the skies with your lives in my hands in our previous several reports, friends. Judah went down so we went up. God has NEVER used the method of getting down on a sinners level – and He never will. God ALWAYS demands of His people who want to witness for Him that they must live on a very high and lofty plane of humility that can only be achieved by esteeming others better than themselves and considering the welfare of others above their own. The other part of that is giving our every thought and deed to the Lord Jesus Christ in submission for correction and for reproof. So, how about it, friends – how are you doing with all of that? If you're down on the level of sinners then you're not living the Christian life as the Bible defines it – because that would literally be impossible.

I fully understand these present-day theologians who come along and say, "...Noah spent a little bit too much time working on that boat!" The theologians in Noah's day were having a big party - and they wanted Noah to come join them, too. They just got a new batch of whatever and they were going to sit around and blow their minds having a high old time talking about what they think spirituality means to them. Well, Noah says, "...no, thanks;" and the theologians questioned how Noah was going to reach the atheist and how Noah could ever save people this way. I mean, after all, no one wanted to get on that boat with Noah! The theologians thought Noah was a little nutty – and that he was utterly wasting his time with boat building.

Well, God never told Noah to do anything but build that ark; so, that's exactly what Noah did. God commanded Noah to give His message out that way. These men today who do everything and say anything to get a crowd because they are afraid no one will want to speak to them if they tell the truth are just a sold-out compromise. God never asked us to compromise. We are to give out the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. I heard a story about Dr. CI Scofield, who produced the Scofield Study

Reference Bible System, and how he gave a speech one night in North Carolina. It was very rainy that night and a small crowd was gathered. The pastor felt compelled to apologize for such few in attendance. Scofield replied, "...Jesus had but twelve to speak to; how shall I complain about this small crowd?"

This generation rejects that premise - and they thereby reject the Word of God. People today think that if there aren't a lot of people involved or the church isn't humungagiant then God isn't in it, and something is wrong. They won't accept proper dispensation and they refuse to learn anything at all. Perhaps we are only called to witness today - but - I have some news for you who think that: when the Word of God is given out in a sincere, educated and competent manner, then it will have an effect. You will see results - every time. Judah went down to his brethren and, at the same time, he sure communicated something to the Canaanites. Judah couldn't have gotten any more down on their level than he did, and he almost had ANOTHER - third - murder on his hands as a result. These things brought tragedy to his life. So, I'm taking our spiritual airplane up another twenty thousand feet now. It's going to be hard to breath for a moment....

***27 And it came to pass in the time of her travail, which, behold, twins were in her womb.***

***28 And it came to pass, when she travailed, that the one put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first.***

***29 And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez.***

***30 And afterward came out his brother, which had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah.***

~ Alright, we have had an awful chapter and we have these names coming up again, so we are going to exit this section via the New Testament where we'll temporarily land our safari aircraft. There's simply nowhere to land

here in Genesis; and we are going to read all of this soon anyways from the first chapter of Matthew: The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren; And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa; And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias; And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias; And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias; And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel; And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor; And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud; And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob; And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Because this is the family of God we are talking about, God is going to get them out of that land of wicked evil abominations, you may be sure; and, with that, we're back on the ground now in our safari and we will return to the story of Joseph. Of course, Joseph is already down there in Egypt, and he didn't take the luxury tour, either. He has been taken and sold as a slave. Of course, Joseph didn't go willingly to Egypt; and the entire family is going to end up in Egypt - unwillingly. Joseph and Judah are two different types of people as we are going to see here. Joseph and Benjamin, I am sure, were the ones that taught the Word of God and who gave instruction and directions in sound doctrine, not always solicited, I might add! I don't think the other ten ever really did quite get it. After all, these are the only two that Jacob seems to care much about.

Now we also see Joseph being blessed and protected by God in Egypt. What the brothers meant for harm will be used by God for good in Joseph's



life. All things – ALL things, my beloved – work together for good to those who abide in God and are called for His purpose. God is going to hold Joseph very closely for the rest of his life – even during some unimaginably bad times. Right now, these are actually good times for Joseph, though; because he immediately gets a good job working for a military man and is given a high office in his house....

### XXXIX

***1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.***

***2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian***

~ So, we end this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God by noting some things for our next report: first, God did not appear to Joseph personally. Yet, we see more evidence of the direction and leading of God in Joseph's life than any other member of his large and extended family - and more than in any other person in the Book of Genesis. God appeared to the other three patriarchs: but not Joseph. It wasn't necessary because the Hand of God was revealed by the life of Joseph from the very beginning. Oddly, we are going to see some terrible things happening to Joseph; but God will be right in the middle of all of it – making all things work together for good - for Joseph ~

