

Dr. Dennis Wiles
Pastor's Bible Study
October 8, 2023



Genesis
AN INTERLUDE: JUDAH AND TAMAR
Genesis 38
www.thesacramentaljourney.org

NARRATIVE TENSION: This interlude outlining the episode involving Judah and Tamar provides the reader with a break in the Joseph narrative, thus creating tension in the account.

THEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS: The account of Judah and Tamar figures into a broader theological conversation concerning the vital role of Judah in the grand narrative.

- Genesis 37:26-28: Judah's role in the sale of Joseph
- Genesis 43: Judah's pledge to protect Benjamin
- Genesis 44: Judah's plea for Benjamin's life before Joseph
- Genesis 49:8-12: Jacob's blessing upon Judah

JUDAH'S CANAANITE FAMILY: Judah married a Canaanite woman and had three sons.

JUDAH'S SON'S EVIL: Judah's two older sons were wicked and actually put to death by God!

TAMAR'S PLIGHT: Tamar was condemned to lifelong barrenness by Judah.

TAMAR'S PLOY: Tamar decided to deceive Judah and tricked him into fathering a child through her.

JUDAH'S PREDICAMENT: Judah was forced to accept the consequences of his behavior and remove his condemnation of Tamar.

TAMAR'S PROGENY: Tamar gave birth to twin sons: Zerah and Perez. Perez would be in the line of promise for the line of Judah.

NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTION: Tamar and Perez will be listed in the genealogies of Jesus in the New Testament. Perez will be included in both Matthew's and Luke's lists. Tamar (Canaanite) appears only in Matthew's list, along with Rahab (Canaanite), Ruth (Moabite), Bathsheba (Hitite), and Mary, the Mother of Jesus!