

TAMAR, MOTHER OF PEREZ

During the last two weeks, we have been studying the grace attitude of Christ towards women.

We will carry this idea over into the Tuesday Christmas study. The traditional nativity has Three Wise Men associated with the birth of Jesus Christ (Matt.Ch.2). This Christmas we will study Three Wise Women listed in the genealogy of birth of Jesus Christ (Matt.1:3-6).

We will study the first three of the five Wise Women listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

- **Dec.4** **Tamar (Matt.1:3)** **Mother of Perez**
- Dec.11 Rahab (Matt.1:5a) Mother of Boaz
- Dec.18 Ruth (Matt.1:5b) Mother of Obed
- **Dec.25 and Jan.1 – There will be no Tuesday classes.**

The story of Tamar is found in Genesis Ch.38. The drama of this story is just between Judah and Tamar. It begins with Judah negotiating a marriage between Tamar's family and his oldest son: "Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar." (Gen.38:6)

It is important to note that this occurred just after the incident with Joseph (ch.37). This will help us understand the spiritual state of reversionism of Judah. You will recall that it was Judah who suggested to his brothers that they sell Joseph to Ishmaelite traders (Gen.37:26-27). This story will remind us that Christmas can be a season full of conflict as well as blessings (Phil.4:6-7).

This lesson will study six aspects of how Tamar, a Canaanite, became one of the Three Wise Women in the Jewish genealogy of Jesus Christ.

- 1. Tamar probably came from a prominent Canaanite family equal in status to Judah's family. This meant that she was educated and prepared to take her rightful place in society.**

She came from a polytheistic culture but married into a monotheistic one. The dominant religion of her culture was the phallic cult of Baal worship. This point will become important later in this story. This type of intermarriage will later be forbidden (Ex.34:14-16; Deut.7:1-4) [influence of a wife and mother].

However, she had Positive Volition at God Consciousness and accepted the Gospel of Christ as a result of this marriage (Gal.3:8-9; 1 Cor.15:3-4). We know that she became a believer from her place in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. (Matt.1:3; 1 Chron.2:4; Ruth 4:18). She came into this family during a time of great grief (Jacob lost of Joseph). But it was also at a time of great discussion regarding life after death because of faith in Christ.

- 2. When she became a Spiritually Advancing Believer, her life became a target in the angelic conflict and undeserved suffering.**

(Phil.1:29). "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."

The shock was to learn that the attack would come from the believer's side: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing was happening to you; but to the degree that you share the suffering of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation." (1 Pet.4:12-13)

Tamar's undeserved suffering began with two unexpected deaths of young husbands. She became very familiar with the doctrine of the sin unto death (38:7-10; 1 John 5:16).

All of a sudden she had experienced widowhood twice at a very young age. As a widow, she fell under a special category of God's grace (Deut.10:18; 1 Tim.5:3-16). A doctrine of grace that she will ignore.

With her second husband, Onan, she became very familiar with the doctrine of Goel redeemer (Gen.38:8-10; Deut.25:5-10) [Levirate Law].

3. **The Doctrine and practice of the "Goel Redeemer" was established prior to her second marriage.**

It was a very important doctrine to the messianic lineage of the tribe of Judah: "Behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." (Rev.5:5)

[Tamar became an important link to the historical impact of this verse.]

After the funeral of Onan, Judah entered a second Goel marriage covenant with Tamar and her family with his last son, Shelah: "Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, 'Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows-up;' for he thought, 'I am afraid that he too may die like his brothers.' So Tamar went and lived in her father's house." (Gen.38:11)

4. **As a fellow Believer, she believed that Judah would honor the Word of God. But after a considerable time and the death of his wife, she realized Judah would not honor this word of God (38:12-14).**

So she took God's matters into her own hands (Subjectivity, a result of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking) saying to herself "two can play this game" and she removed her widow garments rather than leave it in the hands of a sovereign God! She knew Deut.10:18 - "He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing." And Eccl.3 - "God controls time", but we control the decisions we make in it!

So she plotted against Judah's weaknesses, sex (Gen.38:15), his need to save face (Gen.38:23) and that he would need to retrieve his personal possessions. (Gen.38:16-22). The Levirate Covenant required both Believers to show kindness to one another. (chesed).

5. **Principle: God's chesed (kindness) is necessary to parent children from other marriages as a God's Goel Redeemer.**

"And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, 'May he be blessed of the Lord who has not withdrawn his kindness to the living and to the dead.'" (Ruth 2:20)

The Hebrew word for **kindness** is translated in the Greek as **eleos** (mercy) [it assumes a need on the part of the one receiving it and adequate resources of the one meeting that need] (Heb.4:14-16).

"And, fathers, **do not provoke** your children **to anger** (parorgizo) [don't initiate or be the source of it]; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Eph.6:4)

Judah became God's Goel by default rather than by faith. Therefore he shares the fourth genealogy of Christ with Tamar: "And **to** Judah were born Perez and Zerah **by** Tamar." (Matt.1:3)

6. **Joseph of the NT was God's choice of Goel from the tribe of Judah for the birth of Immanuel.**

Jesus was the Firstborn and The Only Begotten Son of God (Matt.1:18-25).

The **firstborn son** of the Levirate marriage was called the "Only Begotten Son" and kept the family genealogy alive. (Rom.8:29) "That He might be **the first-born** among many brethren." (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that He gave **His Only Begotten Son** that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life

Levirate law is not practiced in the church age because we are in the period of the Only Begotten Son of God.