

GOD'S OVER-RULING WILL TO JUDAH

In our last study we outlined (Gen.38:12-26) by seven homiletical points. We divided this passage of Scriptures into two sections for study (Gen.38:12-19) (Wait on the Lord) and (Gen.38:20-26) (this lesson).

God's over-ruling will to Judah

- (Gen.38:20-23) Shine prostitute
- (Gen.38:24-26a) Sealed deal
- (Gen.38:26b) Sexual abstinence – “And he did not have relations with her again.”

In our last lesson:

- We studied how both Judah and Tamar chose to walk by sight rather than by faith.
- We studied how they both were unwilling to fulfill the directive will of God regarding the Levirate child.
- We studied how they both took God's matters into their own hands.
- We studied how they both did not take seriously the sovereignty of the directive will of God.
- We studied how Paul calls this walking unwisely in CWL and not redeeming time in the plan of God (Eph.5:15-17).

In this lesson, we will study five aspects of God's Over-ruling Will to Judah regarding Tamar and Shelah.

1. The sovereignty of God is engaged in all three classifications of the Will of God in life of believers (Matt.6:9-13).

Paul identified the Sovereignty of God with the Greek word, **dunastes** [Potentate/ highest power/ Plan of God] (1Tiim.6:15) and **dunatos** (able) [mighty in action/ Directive Will] (Rom.4:21).

Three classifications of Will of God

- Directive Will (geographical, operational, mental)
- Permissive Will (human volition and divine discipline)
- Over-ruling Will (divine invention and plan of God)

2. Because of Sovereignty, God always has the last word on the WORD.

We love to boast that God's word is eternal until it comes time for application under stress.

(1 Pet.1:23-25) “For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, **through the living and enduring word of God**. For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass, the grass withers, and the flower falls off, but **the word of the Lord endures forever.**” (Isa.40:6)

Don't believe that you can be disobedient to the Directive Will of God and think it is not a big deal to God. Our heavenly Father takes personal interest in our lives (Gen.4:5-16) (Cain) (1 John 3:12).

(Heb.12:7) “It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with us as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?” Who was the firstborn son of Adam and Eve? (Gen.4:1)

3. The firstborn son of the seed of the woman of messianic lineage was heir to the seed of Christ (Gen.3:15; Luke 1:31-35; Matt.1:18-25; Gal.3:16).

The firstborn could lose his position by default. This teaches the spiritual advancing believer the importance of the omniscience of God as well as sovereignty of God working the plan of God (**Isa.55:8-9, 11**).

- **Seth** was one of those by default. Seth was the third born to Adam and Eve (Gen.5:3; Luke 3:38).
- **Shem** was another by default. Gen.10:21 tell us that Japheth was the oldest. Yet Shem is in the lineage of Christ (Luke 3:36; Gen.9:21-27).
- **Jacob** brought Esau birthrights for a bowl of soup (Gen.25:28-34).
- **Judah** was another by default. He was the fourth son of Jacob (Luke 3:33--34; Gen.46:8-12).
- **Perez** was another by default, he was the fourth son of Judah by Tamar (Luke 3:33-34; Gen.38; 46:8).

We are only 25 generations into the lineage of Christ (Luke 3:33-38).

4. Notice that in our lesson text, the Sovereign Over-Ruling Will of God is applied to Judah and not to Shelah or Tamar.

It was Judah who chose to keep her a childless widow in the Plan of God (Gen.38:11-12, 26). Judah made this decision against the directive will of God.

In the end, Judah acknowledged his sin against the directive will of God and not her sin (Gen.38:25-26).

(Gen.38:26a) **“She is more righteous than I, in as much as I did not give her to my son.”**

Tamar became 1 of 5 women in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt.1:1-5).

5. Note that Perez didn’t carry the lineage of Er to Judah (Matt.1:3; Luke 3:33). He carried the lineage of Judah to Jacob.

Therefore, the Perez’s genealogy is not from Levirate marriage.

This means that Judah took Tamar as his concubine wife; and this helps us understand

(Gen.38:26b) **“And he did not have relations with her again.”**

This would be like Jacob with Leah and Zilah (concubine wife) and Rachel and Bilkah (concubine wife).

Judah had 5 sons; three by Bath-Shua and twins by Tamar. Perez (breaking out) beat Zerah (scarlet thread) by a nose (Gen.38:27). **Shelah** married and his family became known as the Shelanites (Num.26:19-22; 1 Chron.4:21-23).

**GOD USES HIS OVER-RULING WILL, UNDER ENFORCED HUMILITY,
TO FULFIL HIS PLAN IN OUR LIVES.**

(Gen.38:26)