

### 3. The breakthrough of the Son of Promise

<sup>27</sup> When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.<sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> 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. verses 27-29

#### How Tamar and Judah point to Jesus:

*What'll make us able to work for justice and will make us able to admit the depth of our sin?*

#### Notice what Judah was doing to Tamar.

He was about to punish her for *his* sins, but the one who came from Judah, the real Jesus, took the punishment for *our* sins.

*when, you know that kind of absolute freedom  
then you'll be able to go after justice like Tamar,  
you'll be able to accept what God  
is telling you about your own heart  
and like Judah, become someone great.*

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### Have Yourself a Merry Little Spiritual Awakening Genesis 38:11-19, 24-29

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.

<sup>12</sup> After a long time... <sup>13</sup> Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep," <sup>14</sup> 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.*

<sup>15</sup> When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. <sup>16</sup> 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." "And what will you give me to sleep with you?" she asked. <sup>17</sup> "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. <sup>18</sup> He said, "What pledge should I give you?" "Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand," she answered. So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him. <sup>19</sup> After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow's clothes again.

<sup>24</sup> 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!" <sup>25</sup> 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." <sup>26</sup> Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah." And he did not sleep with her again.

<sup>27</sup> When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.<sup>28</sup> 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." <sup>29</sup> 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.

## 1. The breakthrough of Tamar

Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Live as a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up." vs 11a

Levirate marriage law (approx. 1750 B.C.) stated:

If a man's son died that his next son in line would take his brother's wife in marriage.

"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. vs 11b

Judah had no intent to honor that law any longer.

After a long time...<sup>13</sup> Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep,"<sup>14</sup> 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.* vs 13,14

**"What in the world is she doing?"** She wants justice.

Tamar exposes her father in laws: \_\_\_\_\_.

Tamar fights for her very: \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. The breakthrough of Judah

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!" vs. 24

**Why would Judah do such a thing? The answer is in verse 11-**

"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." vs. 11

He needed to justify in his own mind what happened to his sons. He has been thinking about her yet not knowing how to blame her. Now he has a reason in his mind.

- **Judah's moment of truth**

"See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are."<sup>26</sup> *Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah."* vs. 25,26

**See, the first point of Tamar's breakthrough** is a great point if you're into social justice.

**But here's the second point** ... you must be born again and that even a very good person, a very moral person, a very socially conscience person has to have a spiritual awakening.

**What is a spiritual awakening?** *It's when you begin to see that you're no better than the people you used to despise. You are as wretched and lost as they are before a Holy God. That is a spiritual awakening.*

**Judah's redemption-** on display in Genesis Chapter 44, years after the Tamar incident.

"Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. 34 How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father." Genesis 44:33