**GENESIS: Exploring The Foundations Of Our Faith:**

**The Visible Contrast Between Two Brothers (Gen 38).**

**6/2/24**

*At that time,* ***Judah left his brothers*** *and went down to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah.****2****There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named* ***Shua****. He* **married her** *and made love to her;****3****she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named* ***Er****.****4****She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him* ***Onan****.****5****She gave birth to still another son and named him* ***Shelah****. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him.* Genesis38:1-5

***6****Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was* ***Tamar****.****7****But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was* ***wicked*** *in the Lord’s sight;****so the Lord put him to death****.* ***8****Then Judah said to Onan, “****Sleep with your brother’s wife*** *and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to raise up offspring for your brother.”*  Genesis38:6-8

**Levirate Law of Marriage.** Deuteronomy 25:5-6

***9****But Onan knew that the child would not be his; so* ***whenever he slept*** *with his brother’s wife, he spilled his semen on the ground to* ***keep from providing offspring*** *for his brother.****10****What he did was* ***wicked*** *in the*

*Lord’s sight; so the****Lord put him to death also****.* Genesis38:8-10

***11****Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “****Live as a widow*** *in your father’s household until my son Shelah grows up.”* Genesis38:11

***13****When Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep,”****14****… For she saw that, though Shelah had now grown up,* ***she had not been given to him as his wife.******15****When Judah saw her, he thought she was a* ***prostitute****, for she had covered her face.****16****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.* Genesis38:15-16

***17****“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.* ***18****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.* ***19****After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow’s clothes again.* Genesis38:17-19

***20****Meanwhile Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get his pledge back from the woman,* ***but he did not find her****.****21****He asked the men who lived there, “Where is the shrine prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?” “There hasn’t been any shrine prostitute here,” they said.* Genesis38:20-21

***23****Then Judah said, “****Let her keep what she has****, or we will become a laughingstock. After all, I did send her this young goat, but you didn’t find her.”* Genesis38:22-23

***24****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****!”*  ***25****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.”* Gen38:24-25

***26****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.* Genesis38:26

***27****When the time came for her to give birth, there were* ***twin boys in her womb****.****28****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.”****29****…And he was named* ***Perez****.****30****Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out. And he was named* ***Zerah****.* Genesis38:27-30