

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Gen. 37

Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

## II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

1. Joseph's Background, 30:24-25

2. Joseph's Boyhood, 37:1-11

3. Joseph's Betrayal, 37:12-36

a. How Joseph was Sent to His Brethren, 37:12-17

b. How Joseph was Seen by His Brethren, 37:18-27

c. How Joseph was Sold by His Brethren, 37:28-36

When we left off the last chapter, Joseph was a slave, sold to Potiphar in Egypt (37:36.)

# Joseph's Journey

Joseph is sold at Dothan and transported to Egypt—probably to Zoan/Tanis

Joseph goes from Hebron to Shechem to Dothan looking for his brothers

Dothan

Shechem

Bethel  
Jerusalem

Gaza

Hebron

Joseph's brother travel from Hebron to Zoan/Tanis to buy food from Egypt a trip of about 200 miles from Hebron

Zoan • Tanis

Sinai Peninsula

— = 20 km

Tonight, we take a break from the narrative regarding Joseph and focus in chapter 38 upon Judah. Judah is destined to become the tribe that is connected to King David and the Lord Jesus Christ, but this chapter is NOT the most glorious portrayal of mankind. The Bible does not shun telling the sordid truth about human nature, which, due to the fall of Adam, is raw and “desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9.)

Jer. 17:9 **The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked:** who can know it?

## 4. Joseph's Brother, 38:1-30

### a. Judah and His Sons, 38:1-10

- ❖ As Judah became a father to his sons, can you imagine how he had a greater sense of sorrow in his role to cause the heartbreak and heartache of his father in the loss of Joseph?

#### (1) His Wayward Behavior, 38:1

Gen. 38:1 And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name *was* Hirah.

❖ After the tragedy of losing Joseph, Judah eventually separated from his brothers.

❖ He went “to a certain Adullamite, whose name *was* Hirah.”

**Original Word:** חִירָה; **Transliteration:** Chirah

**Definition:** a friend of Judah

❖ The name of Hirah means "**noble** race or **noble** family" having a sense of splendor.

- Hirah begins as Judah's acquaintance;
- Hirah becomes Judah's associate;
- Hirah becomes Judah's accomplice.

❖ Judah's friendship and fellowship with an unsaved person becomes an influence to affect Judah for the rest of his life.

1 Cor. 15:33 Be not deceived: **evil communications corrupt** good manners.



Prov. 13:20 He that **walketh with wise *men*** shall be wise: but **a companion of fools** shall be destroyed.

Prov. 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

25 **Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.**

❖ The meaning of “noble” family will have greater ramifications later in the chapter.

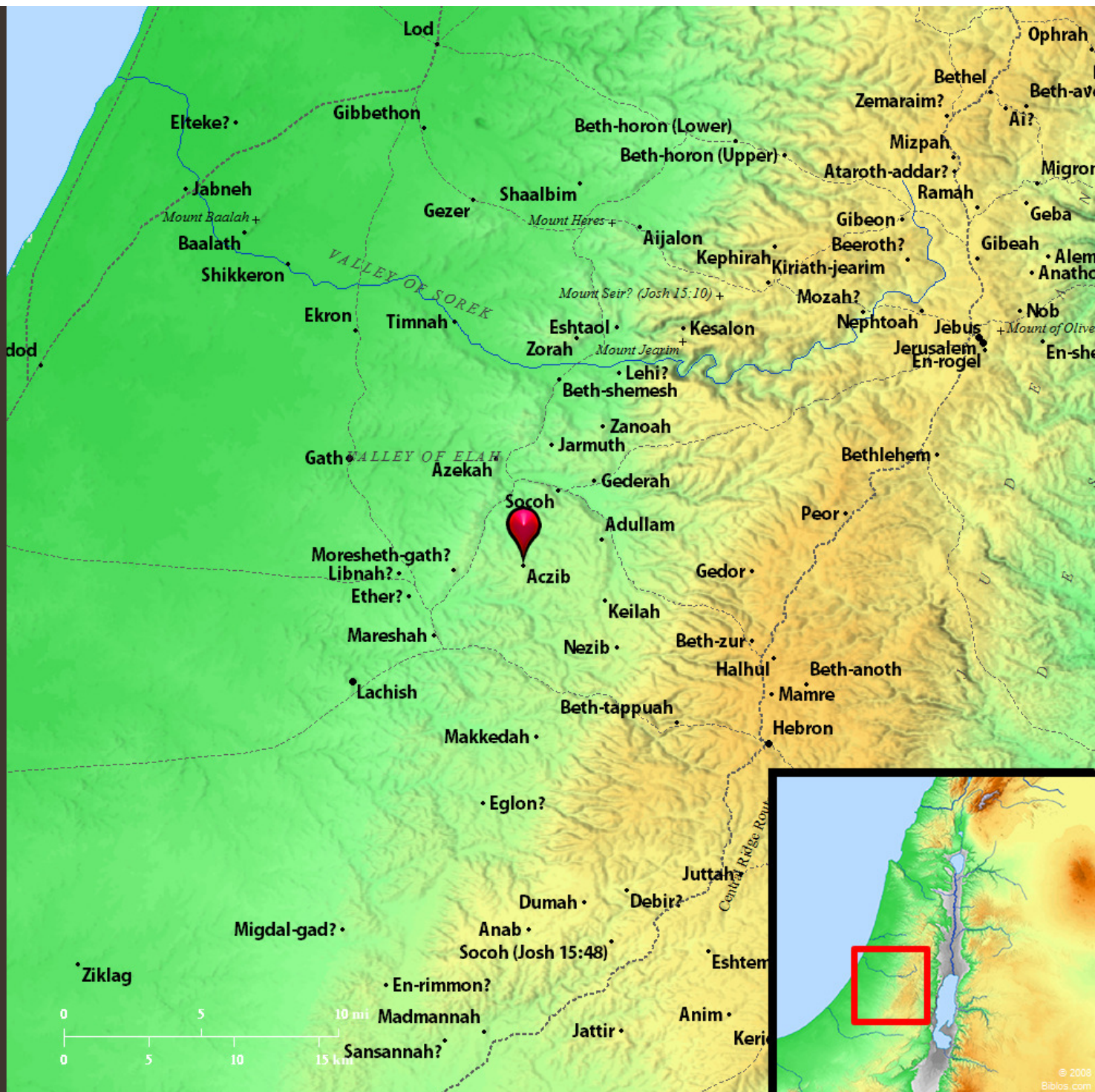
## (2) His Worldly Bride, 38:2-5

Gen. 38:2 And **Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite**, whose name *was* Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.

3 And she conceived, and bare a son; and he called his name Er.

4 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and she called his name Onan.

5 And she yet again conceived, and bare a son; and called his name Shelah: and he was at Chezib, when she bare him.



[http://excellent-valley.org/Lamentations/Pg4\\_First\\_and\\_Last.htm](http://excellent-valley.org/Lamentations/Pg4_First_and_Last.htm)

❖ Judah hangs out with a worldly, pagan friend, then marries a worldly, pagan Canaanite.

1 Jn. 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

❖ Incidents of compromise reveal worldly examples for the next generation.

2 Cor. 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord**, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

**Original Word:** כִּזְבִּיב; **Transliteration:** Kezib

**Definition:** a place in the plain of Judah; the town having a meaning of "false" with a root of "a liar".

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3580.htm>

Shuah = "wealth"

Er = "awake" or "watcher"

Onan = "strong" or "strength"

Shelah = "petition" or "prayer" – also, "he that breaks."

### (3) His Wicked Boys, 38:6-10

Gen. 38:6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name *was* Tamar.

7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him.

8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.

9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled *it* on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.

10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also.

- ❖ Tamar's lineage is not mentioned, but assumed to be of the area, a Canaanite.
- ❖ Tamar's name means "palm trees," and the palm or date trees were noted to grow especially well and upright in the area of Engedi and Adullam.
- ❖ Under the Mosaic law, in the future, brothers were to carry-on the family heritage.

Deut. 25:5 If brethren dwell together, and **one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her**, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her.

6 And it shall be, *that* the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother *which is* dead, **that his name be not put out of Israel.**



❖ The custom was related to the lineage of the Messiah.

❖ Judah's heathen wife was a very unspiritual influence on Judah's sons.

a. Judah and His Sins, 38:11-26

(1) His Perverted Values, 38:11-14

Gen. 38:11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren *did*. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

12 And in process of time the daughter of Shuah Judah's wife died; and Judah was comforted, and went up unto his sheepshearers to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

13 And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep.

14 And she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which *is* by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife.

- ❖ Judah's heathen wife died and his worldly friend, Hirah, encouraged some "worldly" entertainment to enjoy.
- ❖ Tamar devised a plan to circumvent Judah's negligence in protecting her.
- ❖ Tamar's clothing depicted her first as a widow, and then as a temple prostitute.

# You Are What You Wear: What Your Clothes Reveal About You

by Jennifer Baumgartner

**Q: “Business-casual” has become so popular in offices these days. What do you think about that?**

**A:** Your outfit must enhance your ability to do your job. Anything that is physically uncomfortable like 8-inch heels or a skin-tight skirt, are not going to help you do your best work. **Anything that works against the image of your company or profession**, such as ripped jeans and a stained shirt during a public appearance, will not enhance your ability either. **You also must consider the message you are sending** to your client. If I show up to work having rolled out of bed, I am telling my client "I just don't care."

Finally, you must consider the impact your clothes have on your success. If you want to be recognized for your accomplishments, is your outfit a distracter? If you want to receive a promotion, are you dressing like the boss? Your wardrobe is one more tool you can use to launch your career, so use it wisely.

**Q: Ultimately, what *does* a person's clothes reveal about them?**

**A:** It can tell me about family patterns, cultural influences, peer pressures, environmental stressors, financial behaviors, self-concept and body perception.

**Your clothes reveal what is really going on internally.**

Your thoughts and feelings are laid bare in the closet; you just have to look for them.

<https://www.foxnews.com/health/words-of-wellness-you-are-what-you-wear>

## (2) His Personal Vileness, 38:15-23

Gen. 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought her *to be* an harlot; because she had covered her face.

16 And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she *was* his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?

17 And he said, I will send *thee* a kid from the flock. And she said, Wilt thou give *me* a pledge, till thou send *it*?

18 And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that *is* in thine hand. And he gave *it* her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him.

19 And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.

20 And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive *his* pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not.

21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where *is* the harlot, that *was* openly by the way side? And they said, There was no harlot in this *place*.

22 And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, *that* there was no harlot in this *place*.

23 And Judah said, Let her take *it* to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.

- ❖ Judah was not too observant to who the woman was, or to her character. He didn't care.
- ❖ The pledges were also “identities” for verification, if needed.
  - The Signet (**his ring**) – represented his *person*.
  - The Bracelets (**gold**) – represented his *possessions*.
  - The Staff (**marked him out as a shepherd**) – represented his *position*.



### (3) His Pretended Virtue, 38:24-26

Gen. 38:24 And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she *is* with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.

25 When she *was* brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these *are*, *am* I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose *are* these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff.

26 And Judah acknowledged *them*, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.

❖ The response to “let her be burnt” was incorporated into the Mosaic Law.

Lev. 21:9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: **she shall be burnt with fire.**

❖ Tamar used the pledges to identify the “father.” (v. 25)

Lev. 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with *another* man's wife, *even he* that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, **the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.**

Deut. 22:22 If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then **they shall both of them die**, *both* the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.

Num. 32:23 But if ye will not do so, **behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.**

❖ Judah, honorably, acknowledged his role in the sin, and commended Tamar.

Mt. 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and **he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

## b. Judah and His Seed, 38:27-30

### (1) The Redeemed Child, 38:27-28, 30

Gen. 38:27 And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins *were* in her womb.

28 And it came to pass, when she travailed, that *the one* put out *his* hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a **scarlet thread**, saying, This came out first.

30 And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah.

- ❖ The “scarlet thread” is a picture of redemption.
- ❖ Pharez, in spite of Zarah’s scarlet thread, was born first.

## (2) The Royal Child, 38:29

Gen. 38:29 And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? *this* breach *be* upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez.

❖ Pharez, the firstborn, became the one in line for the Messiah.

Mt. 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

3 And **Judas begat Phares and Zara of Tamar**; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

## Summary

- ❖ Looking at this chapter alone, Judah is not seen in a very good light. He is like all mankind – a hypocritical sinner controlled by the flesh. Yet, God in His wondrous grace, allowed the tribe of Judah to be the lineage of King David, and most importantly, of the Lord Jesus.
- ❖ Judah lost two sons, and yet God gave him twins via Tamar → GRACE!
- ❖ Tamar, seduced her father-in-law, and yet was in the lineage of the Messiah → GRACE.

## Conclusion

Psa. 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies **blot out my transgressions.**

2 Wash me thoroughly from **mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For **I acknowledge my transgressions:** and **my sin is ever before me.**

4 Against thee, thee only, **have I sinned, and done *this evil in thy sight:*** that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest. ...

7 **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**



8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide thy face from **my sins**, and **blot out all mine iniquities**.

10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.**

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

13 *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

1 Jn. 1:9 **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just **to forgive us our sins**, and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.