

## **Tamar**

Genesis 38

by Don Falkos

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Judah had three sons and arranged for the oldest to marry a young woman named Tamar. But he was a wicked man, so the Lord took his life. As was required by law, Tamar was given to Judah's second son, who was to produce an heir for his dead brother. But whenever he had sex with Tamar, he withdrew prematurely so that she would not become pregnant. The Lord was displeased and took his life, too.

Then Judah sent Tamar back to her parents' home promising that when his youngest son was old enough he would arrange a marriage between them. But he never did; he was afraid that son would also die.

Years later, after Judah's wife had died, Tamar disguised herself and sat beside the road. Judah noticed her and thought she was a prostitute. "Let me have sex with you. I'll send you a young goat from my flock."

She insisted that he leave her his personal seal and his walking stick to guarantee that he would send payment. So he gave them to her.

Later, when Judah tried to send the goat, the prostitute was nowhere to be found.

About three months later, Judah learned that Tamar was pregnant. He was furious that she had been unfaithful to his sons and he ordered that she be executed.

Tamar presented the seal and the walking stick. "The man who owns these things made me pregnant."

Judah recognized them immediately and said, "This woman is in the right; I am to blame; I promised to give her my son, but I never did."

In due time Tamar gave birth to twin sons.