



**“More Righteous Than I”**  
*The Repentance Of Judah*

**Text:**  
**Genesis 38**

By Nathan L Morrison for Sunday 10/02/2022

All Scripture given is from NASB unless otherwise stated

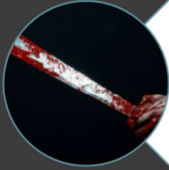
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Adapted from a lesson by Ed Smith, 4 Sept, Tanzania 2022

## INTRO



***Not Reuben,  
the 1<sup>st</sup> born  
(Genesis  
35:22; 49:3-4)***



***Not Simeon  
and Levi  
(Genesis 34;  
49:5-7)***



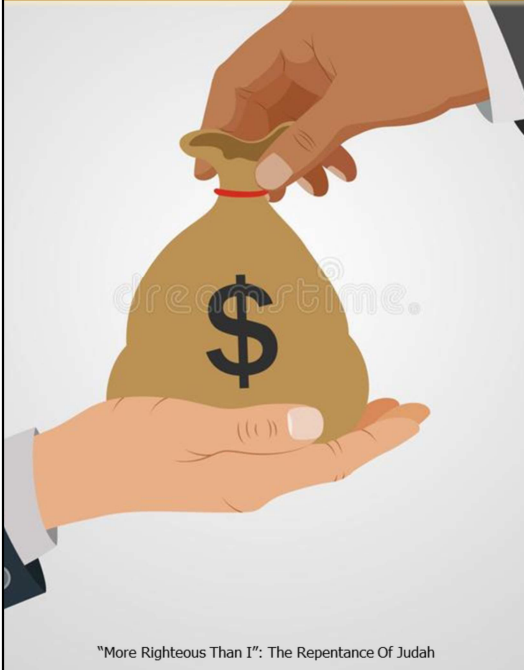
**Judah would  
be the  
leader!  
(Genesis 49:8-  
12)**

**Jacob had 12  
sons (Genesis  
35:22-26)**

**Who would  
lead the  
family?  
(Genesis 49)**

"More Righteous Than I": The Repentance Of Judah

## Judah didn't start out with good character




"More Righteous Than I": The Repentance Of Judah

## Genesis 37

- ✓ Hated Joseph – Genesis 37:11
- ✓ Willing to kill Joseph – Genesis 37:18-20
- ✓ Had a hard heart – Genesis 37:23-25; 42:21
- ✓ He was greedy for money – Genesis 37:26-27
- ✓ Lied to his dad about Joseph's fate – Genesis 37:28-36

### **But Judah didn't start out with good character.**


- Judah hated Joseph like all his brothers – Genesis 37:11,
- Was willing to kill Joseph – Genesis 37:18-20
- He had a hard heart: When Joseph was in the pit without food or water, his brothers ate their meal, Judah included (perhaps all while ignoring Joseph's pleas) – Genesis 37:23-25; 42:21: Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."
- When Joseph was in the pit Judah came up with the idea to sell Joseph into slavery. He was greedy for money – Genesis 37:26-27
- He lied to his dad Jacob about Joseph's fate – Genesis 37:28-36

<p><b>Judah was Deceitful &amp; Selfish</b></p>	<p><b><u>Genesis 38</u></b></p>
 <p><small>"More Righteous Than I": The Repentance Of Judah</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ He left his family, the people of God to live among the Canaanites (38:1-2)</li> <li>✓ He made a friend, Hirah, whose name means "Noble" (38:1)</li> <li>✓ He married a Canaanite woman who is unnamed but her father's name, Shua, means "Wealth" (38:2)</li> <li>✓ Abraham and Isaac would not marry their sons to Canaanites (Gen. 24:2-3; 26:34-35; 27:43-46)</li> <li>✓ He named his children after the Canaanites' language: Er, Onan, Shelah (38:3-5)</li> <li>✓ He lived in a city, Chezib, means "Falsified, or, Deceitful" (38:5)</li> </ul>

## Genesis 38

### Judah was Deceitful & Selfish

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<p><b>Judah was Deceitful &amp; Selfish</b></p>	<p><b><u>Genesis 38</u></b></p>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">"More Righteous Than I": The Repentance Of Judah</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ He married his firstborn son, Er, to a Canaanite woman, Tamar, which means "Palm Tree" (38:6)</li> <li>✓ Er was evil so God killed him (38:7)</li> <li>✓ Judah gave Tamar to his son Onan. Onan abused and used her but would not raise children for his brother (38:8-10)</li> <li>✓ Judah is afraid to give Tamar his third son so he sends her back to her father and makes an excuse that his son is too young (38:11)</li> <li>✓ He says he will give her his son Shelah when he has grown up but he is lying! (38:11) – He wants to hide his 3<sup>rd</sup> son</li> <li>✓ Judah has deceived like his family: Abraham and Isaac, and his father Jacob, whose name means "He supplants, or, Deceiver"</li> </ul>

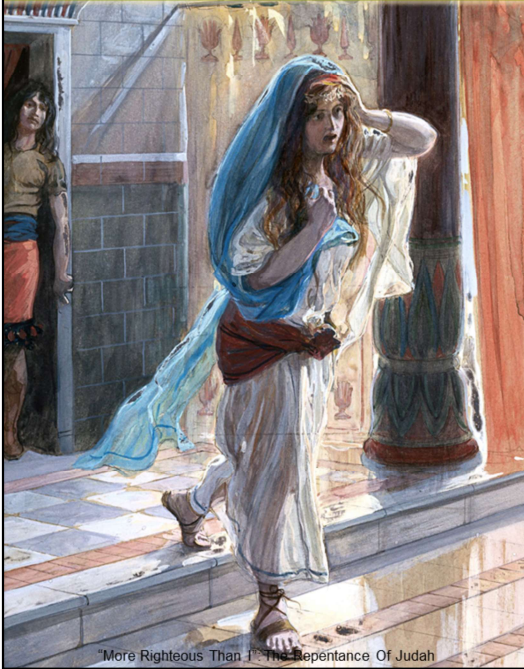
## Genesis 38

### Judah was Deceitful & Selfish

- He married his firstborn son, Er, to a Canaanite woman, Tamar, which means "Palm Tree" (38:6)
- Er was evil and God killed him (38:7)
- Judah gave Tamar to his son Onan. Onan abused and used her but would not raise children for his brother (38:8-10). His sin was not so much sexual as it was selfish. It was not a single act but, as the Hebrew reveals, a persistent refusal.
- Judah is afraid to give Tamar his third son so he sends her back to her father and makes an excuse that his son is too young (38:11).
- He says he will give her his son Shelah when he has grown up but he is lying! (38:11) - He wants to hide his son

- Judah has deceived like his family: Abraham and Isaac, and his father Jacob, whose name means “He supplants, or, Deceiver.”
- He is in bondage to sin and has sunk low. God is not pleased with him.

## **Judah was Deceitful & Selfish**



"More Righteous Than I" - The Repentance Of Judah

## **Genesis 38**

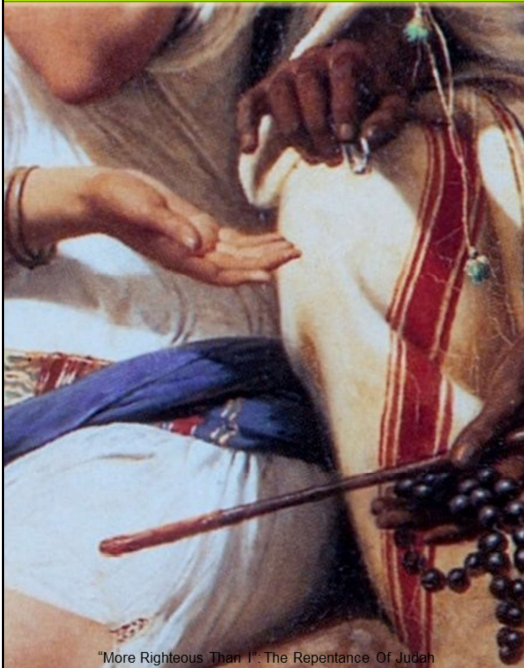
- ✓ Tamar has been abused and is sent back to her father, no longer a part of Judah's family!
- ✓ Judah is cold hearted, opportunistic, deceitful, selfish and greedy for wealth!

## **Genesis 38**

### **Judah was Deceitful & Selfish**

- Tamar has been abused and is sent back to her father, no longer a part of Judah's family.
- Judah is cold hearted, opportunistic, deceitful, selfish and greedy for wealth!

## Judah was Immoral & Foolish



## Genesis 38

- ✓ His wife dies and he goes with his friend to the sheep shearing (38:12)
- ✓ Tamar heard of it and dressed as a prostitute (38:13-14)
- ✓ Judah wanted her (38:15-16)
- ✓ Her price: one goat (38:17)
- ✓ Judah didn't have a goat so he gave her his ring, cord and staff (38:17-18)
- ✓ Judah sends his friend with the goat to pay the prostitute. No prostitute = no belongings back! (38:20-23)

## Genesis 38

### Judah was Immoral & Foolish

- His wife dies and he goes with his friend to the sheep shearing. Usually these are parties. (38:12)
- Tamar heard of it and dressed as a prostitute. Shelah had grown up and Judah had not sent for her to wed him. She decided to take matters into her own hands (38:13-14). (Note: In this time period dressing as a harlot required covering one's face. How times have changed! Today, dressing as a harlot reveals a lot more!)
- Judah wanted her (38:15-16).
- Her price: one goat (38:17).
- Judah didn't have a goat so he gave her his ring, cord and staff (38:17-18). Like giving a prostitute your Credit Card and ID Card – Foolish!



- Judah sends his friend with the goat to pay the prostitute. He doesn't want to be seen with that. The people say there was no prostitute. Judah, not wanting everyone to know he was foolish ("laughingstock") just calls his belongings a loss! (38:20-23)

- Judah has committed fornication like his brother Reuben (Genesis 35:22). Should have known better. Thought himself better than the Canaanites.

## Judah Had No Compassion



## Genesis 38

- ✓ Tamar becomes pregnant (38:24)
- ✓ Judah is told she is his responsibility and she has committed fornication (38:24)
- ✓ She is accused of the sin Judah is guilty of!
- ✓ Judah says if it is true she will be burned! (38:24)
- ✓ No compassion, he is a hard-hearted man
- ✓ Tamar says the father of her baby is the owner of this cord, ring and staff: She presents his "cards" (38:25)

## Genesis 38

### Judah Had No Compassion

- Tamar becomes pregnant – 3 months after Judah’s affair with her (38:24).
- Judah is told she is his responsibility and she has committed fornication (38:24). It didn’t matter that he cast her off and sent her to her father’s house. They didn’t tell her father, they went to Judah, who had the responsibility for her!
- She is accused of the sin Judah is guilty of!
- Judah says if it is true she will be burned! (38:24)
- No compassion, he is a hard hearted man.
- Tamar says the father of her baby is the owner of this ring and staff. She presents his “cards” (38:25)

## Judah Had No Compassion



## Genesis 38

- ✓ We sometimes want to hide our sin
- ✓ Publicly, Judah looks like a fool. He condemned the woman of the same sin he is guilty of and said to burn his own child! Judah had a hard heart, was cruel, greedy, abusive to women, and had no compassion!
- ✓ Our sins will find us out. He looked a fool! ("Laughingstock")
- ✓ David faced this (II Samuel 12)
- ✓ Peter faced this (Luke 22:54-62)

## Genesis 38

### Judah Had No Compassion

- We sometimes want to hide our sin.

- Publicly, Judah looks like a fool. He condemned the woman of the same sin he is guilty of and said to burn his own grandchild. In our country it is called abortion. It is wickedness. Judah had a hard heart, was cruel, greedy, abusive to women, and had no compassion. He is a jerk!

- Our sins will find us out. He looked a fool ("Laughingstock" – 38:20-23)

- David faced this (II Samuel 12). Peter faced this (Luke 22:54-62).

- Judah's marriage to the Canaanite woman (38:2) was a first step in the intermingling of God's people with a race that was proverbial for its gross immorality. God is a God of separation; when we fraternize with the world, we pay an awful price.

## Judah Was Guilty of Sin



## Genesis 38

- ✓ Judah is guilty of sin
- ✓ Tamar is guilty of sin. But she is of the world, she doesn't know better. Judah's family didn't teach her
- ✓ Judah could have denied it, could have said they weren't his, could have accused her of theft

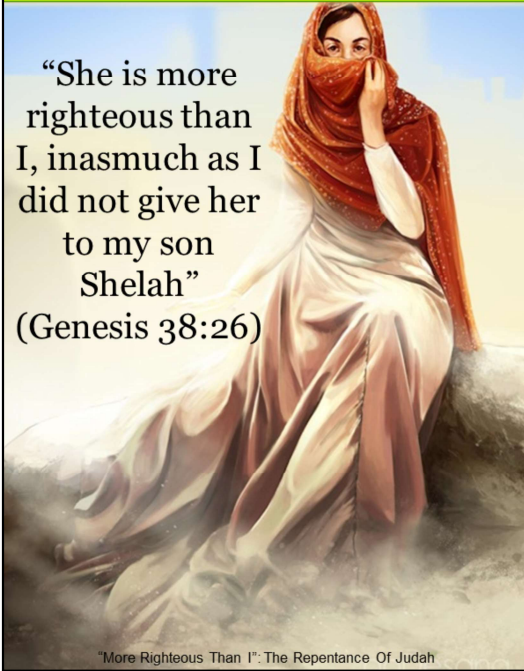
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## Judah Repents & Takes the Lead

“She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah”  
(Genesis 38:26)



## Genesis 38

- ✓ Judah confesses his sin and even confesses his deception of not giving her his third son (38:26)
- ✓ He takes her into his family and never touched her again. He cares for her. She would never be abused again and she would be treated with respect (38:26)
- ✓ She lost two husbands but God gives her two sons who will be important, twins named Perez and Zerah (38:27-30)
- ✓ Her son Perez's descendant is Salmon. Salmon's son is Boaz, who has a great grandson named David. From David will come Jesus! (Ruth 4:12, 18-22; Matthew 1:3-16)

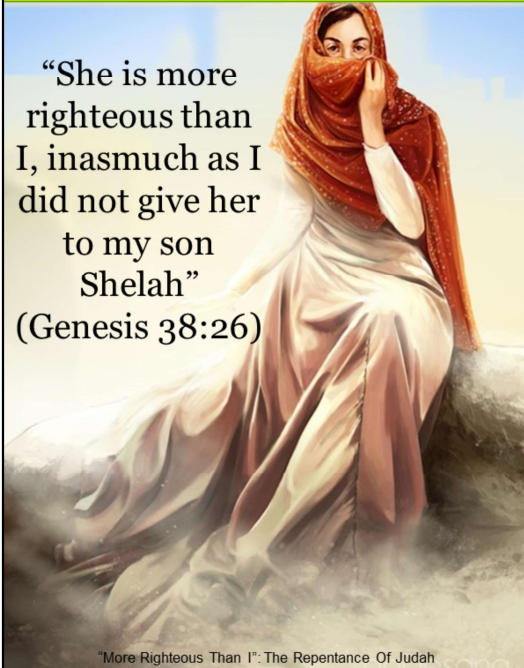
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- Her son Perez's descendant is Salmon. Salmon's son is Boaz, who has a great grandson named David. From David will come Jesus! (Ruth 4:12, 18-22; Matthew 1:3-16: Tamar is one of five women mentioned in the line of Jesus!)
- Judah repents and set his family on a good course. He took his place as leader. God will use this family for good for many generations!

## Judah Repents & Takes the Lead

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## Genesis 42-49

- ✓ Judah is a changed man. The family will go to Egypt and see Joseph who reigns as a king, second to Pharaoh (Genesis 42-45)
- ✓ Joseph told them they could come back only if they bring their youngest brother, Benjamin. Jacob doesn't want to let Benjamin go (Genesis 42:36, 38)
- ✓ Reuben speaks up. If they don't bring him back Jacob could kill Reuben's sons. What an offer! He is unstable (Genesis 42:37)
- ✓ Jacob listens to Judah who says if Benjamin doesn't come back Judah will die. A true sacrifice (Genesis 43:1-14)

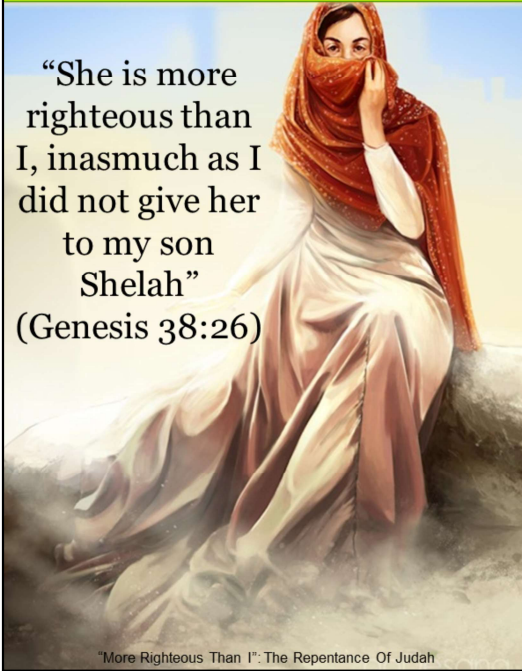
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"More Righteous Than I": The Repentance Of Judah

## Genesis 42-49

✓ The brothers are reunited and the family is healed when they are all in Egypt together!  
(Genesis 46)

## Genesis 42-49

### Judah Repents & Takes the Lead

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## Judah Will Lead The Family Forever



## Genesis 49

- ✓ Jacob gives his son's a blessing before he dies. Judah is a young lion. Lion is king of the animals. Judah has control of the family. He bears the scepter! It shall not leave his family (Genesis 49:8-12)
- ✓ The man who gave his staff to a prostitute will now always have his staff, the symbol of authority. Jesus still bears that staff at the right hand of God as He reigns forever! (Hebrews 12:1-2)

## Genesis 49

### Conclusion: Judah Will Lead The Family Forever

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# Conclusion

As The World Turns:  
Judah, God At Work In A Soap Opera  
Genesis 38



- ✓ **Genesis 38 plays out as a chaotic soap opera (As the World Turns!) and yet, God is in control the whole time! Despite the layers of deceit, immorality, selfishness and greed, God works it out that Jesus, the Savior of the world from sin, would be the ultimate result! In Him alone is salvation from sin found! (Romans 8:28; Acts 4:10-12)**

"More Righteous Than I": The Repentance Of Judah

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Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

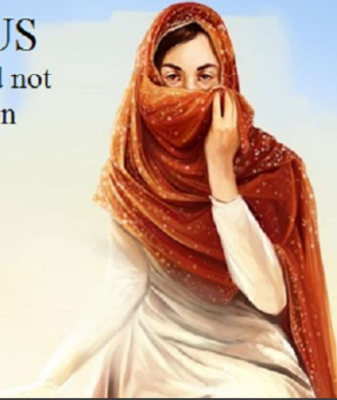
Act 4:10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

Act 4:11 "He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.

Act 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

## Conclusion

"She is more  
**RIGHTEOUS**  
than I, since I did not  
give her to my son  
Shelah"  
(Genesis 38.26)



**Judah's repentance gives us hope! No matter how low we sink, how far we leave God, like the prodigal son (Luke 15), we can come back to God and be used by Him for good!**

"More Righteous Than I": The Repentance Of Judah

### **Conclusion: Judah Will Lead The Family Forever**

- Judah's repentance gives us hope! No matter how low we sink, how far we leave God, like the prodigal son (Luke 15), we can come back to God and be used by Him for good!

## **“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”**

**Hear The Gospel (Jn. 5:24; Rom. 10:17)**

**Believe In Christ (Jn. 3:16-18; Jn. 8:24)**

**Repent Of Sins (Lk. 13:3-5; Acts 2:38)**

**Confess Christ (Mt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10)**

**Be Baptized (Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16)**

**Remain Faithful (Jn. 8:31; Rev. 2:10)**

### **FOR THE ERRING SAINT:**

**Repent (Acts 8:22), Confess (I Jn. 1:9),  
Pray (Acts 8:22)**

## **Conclusion**

1. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
2. If a Christian in error, don't wait till it's eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
3. Whatever your requests, let them be made known **NOW** while we stand & sing!