



“She is More Righteous”
Genesis 38:1-30

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What will we learn?

- ❖ It is risky to leave your people.
- ❖ Past failure / scandal does not disqualify you from usefulness to God.
- ❖ God does not honor our culture's preferences.
- ❖ God cares for the neglected.

Genesis 1-11: Origins

- ❖ Creation
- ❖ Work
- ❖ Marriage
- ❖ Sin
- ❖ Flood
- ❖ Languages

Genesis 12-36: Patriarchs

- ❖ Abraham
- ❖ Isaac (not Ishmael)
- ❖ Jacob (not Esau)

Genesis 37

❖ About God?

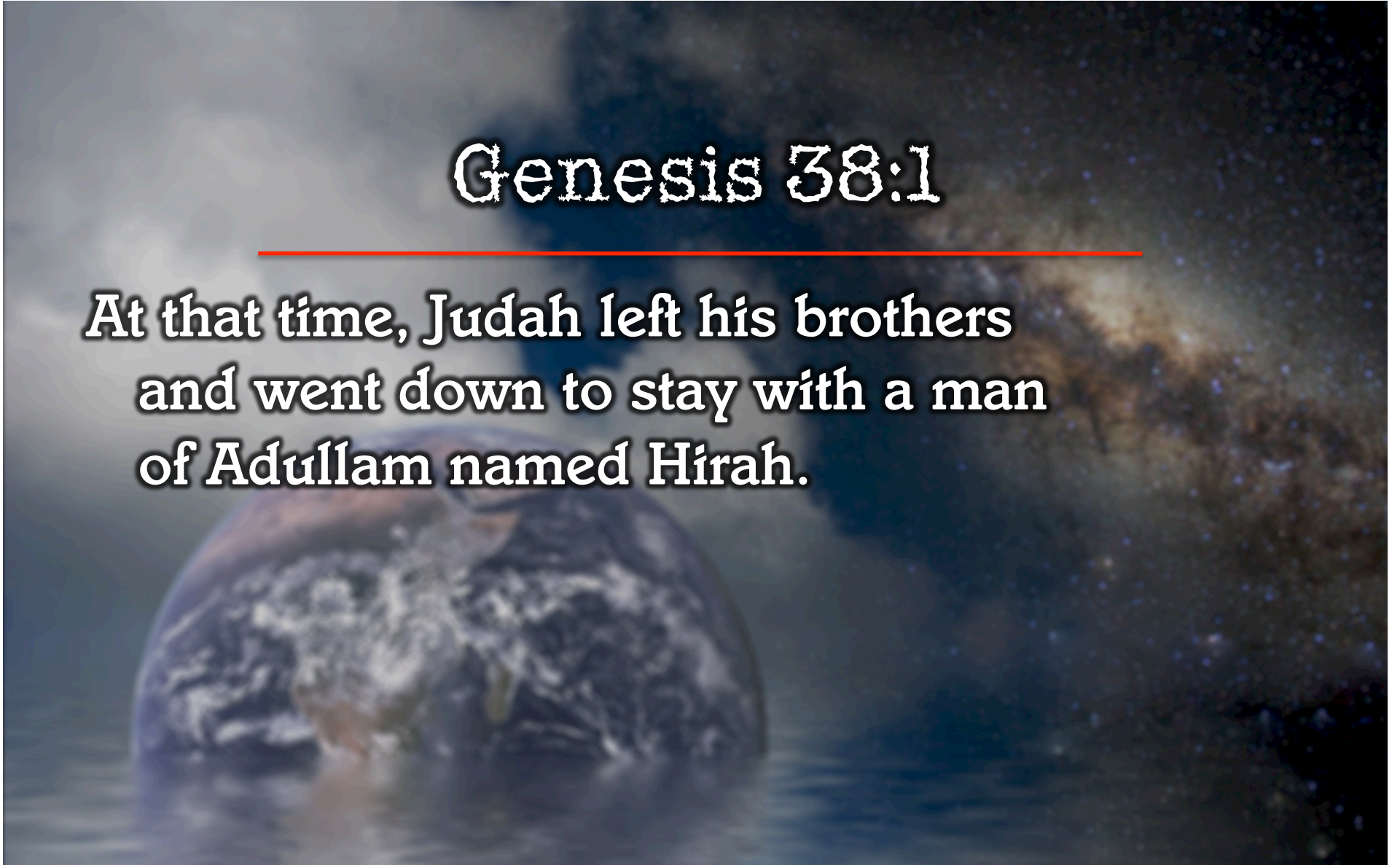
- ❖ He is sovereign.
- ❖ He is hidden.
- ❖ He is trustworthy.

❖ About ourselves?

- ❖ Suffering is not random.
- ❖ We reap what we sow.

Genesis 38:1

**At that time, Judah left his brothers
and went down to stay with a man
of Adullam named Hirah.**



Genesis 37:1-2

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Genesis 38:2-3

There Judah met the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her and made love to her; she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, who was named Er.

Genesis 38:4-5

She conceived again and gave birth to a son and named him Onan. She gave birth to still another son and named him Shelah. It was at Kezib that she gave birth to him.

Genesis 38:6-7

Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the LORD's sight; so the LORD put him to death.

Genesis 38:8

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.”

Deuteronomy 25:5

If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her.

Deuteronomy 25:6

The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

Genesis 38:9-10

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. What he did was wicked in the LORD's sight; so the LORD put him to death also.

onanism

noun: o·nan·ism (ō'nə-nĭz'əm)

- ❖ Masturbation
- ❖ See: *coitus interruptus*

Word Origin: 1720-1730, from Onan, son of Judah (Gen. 38:9), who spilled his seed on the ground rather than impregnate his dead brother's wife.

Genesis 38:11

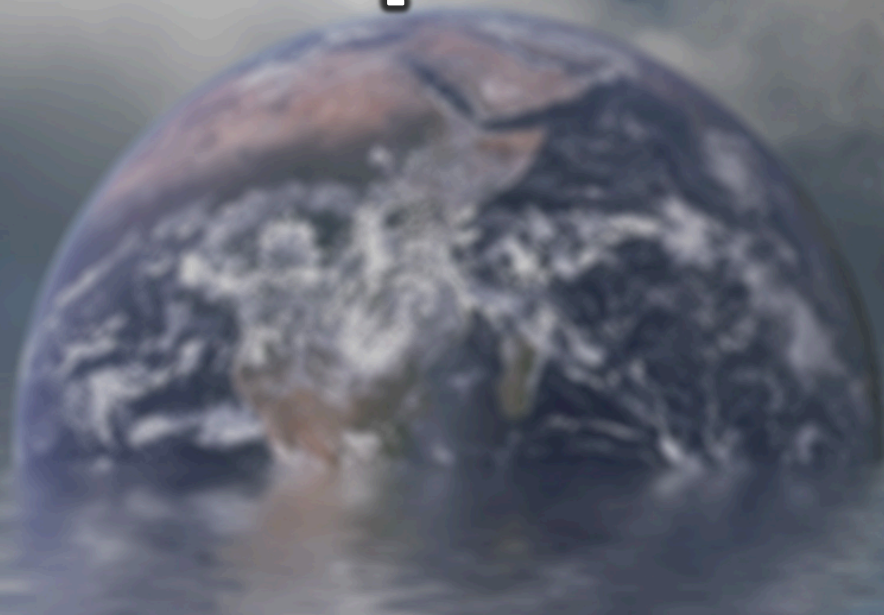
Judah then said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Live as a widow in your father's household until my son Shelah grows up." For he thought, "He may die too, just like his brothers." So Tamar went to live in her father's household.

Genesis 38:12

After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had recovered from his grief, he went up to Timnah, to the men who were shearing his sheep, and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went with him.

Genesis 38:13

When Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is on his way to Timnah to shear his sheep,”



Genesis 38:14

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.

Genesis 38:15-16

When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 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.

Genesis 38:17

**“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.**

Genesis 38:18

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.

Genesis 38:19-20

After she left, she took off her veil and put on her widow's clothes again. 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.

Genesis 38:21-22

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. So he went back to Judah and said, “I didn’t find her. Besides, the men who lived there said, ‘There hasn’t been any shrine prostitute here.’”

Genesis 38:23

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."

Genesis 38:24

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!”

Genesis 38:25

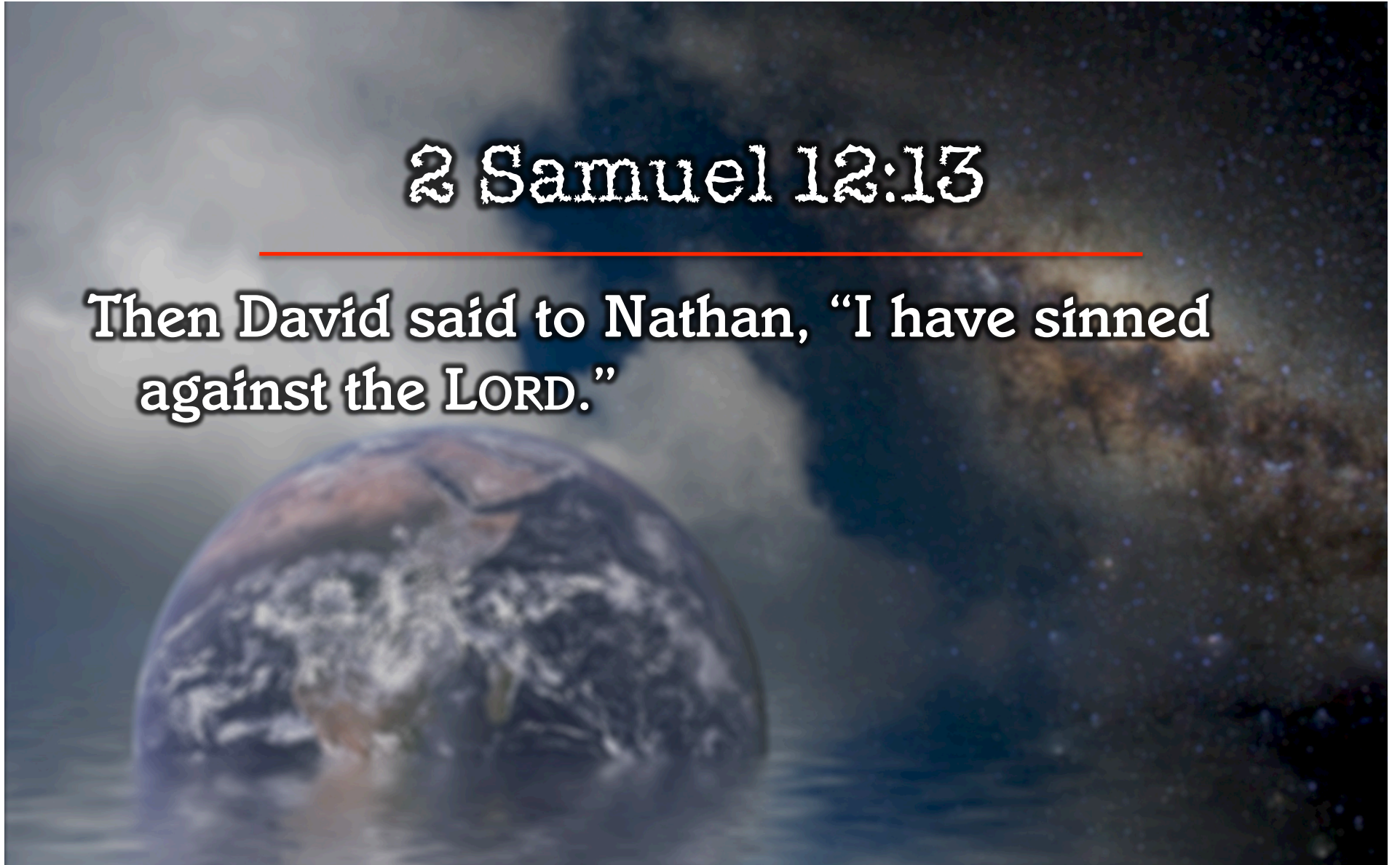
As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. "I am pregnant by the man who owns these," she said. And she added, "See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are."

Genesis 38:26

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.

2 Samuel 12:13

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."



Genesis 38:27-28

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. 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."

Genesis 38:29-30

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. Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out. And he was named Zerah.

Matthew 20:16

[Jesus]: “So the last will be first,
and the first will be last.”



Judah's sons:

- ❖ Er
- ❖ Onan
- ❖ Shelah
- ❖ Zerah
- ❖ Perez
(ancestor of David)

C. Gordon Wenham:

“Tamar, through her determination to have children, secured for Judah the honor of fathering both David and the Savior of the world.”

Ruth 4:18-20

This, then, is the family line of Perez:
Perez was the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Ruth 4:21-22

Salmon the father of Boaz,
Boaz the father of Obed,
Obed the father of Jesse,
and Jesse the father of David.

Matthew 1:1-3

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
the son of David, the son of Abraham:
Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
Judah the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar ...

What have we learned?

- ❖ It is risky to leave your people.
- ❖ Past failure / scandal does not disqualify you from usefulness to God.
- ❖ God does not honor our culture's preferences.
- ❖ God cares for the neglected.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper