

Matthew 1:3a; Genesis 38
OUR SAVIOR'S ANCESTRESS: TAMAR

- I. Great sin.
 - A. Judah (the fourth son of Jacob) was the promised line of Christ (Gen. 49:8-12).
 - B. But Judah was not morally better, for Scripture records also his sins.
 - 1. Judah left his father's house (38:1), lived with the Canaanites and married one of them (38:2) having three sons (38:3-5).
 - 2. After his wife dies (12) he satisfies his fleshly desires with a harlot (16) and becomes an illegitimate father (24).
 - C. It was God's grace that Abraham's descendants were taken from Canaan and went into Egypt.
 - D. For the sake of accuracy and honesty God has this history carefully recorded.
- II. God's purpose was and is to show the greatness and glory of His grace.
 - A. The Savior's presence is a wonder of grace – a life out of the dead.
 - 1. Abraham begat Isaac after he and Sarah were “dead” (Rom. 4:19).
 - 2. It is all of grace for man only sins and does nothing which merits with God; grace alone explains the coming of Christ.
 - 3. Further this history demonstrates the need which also God's people have for atonement.
 - 4. Matthew records this (to Jews) to rebuke Jewish ancestral and national pride.
 - B. This passage emphasizes the urgency that we do all we can to have our children marry in the Lord.
 - C. This record of Judah's sins is a proof that the Bible is of divine authorship, not human.
 - 1. The world glorifies its heroes, but the Bible shows them for what they are.
 - 2. The Bible treats sin as sin: something abhorrent to God and to the sanctified conscience of God's children.
 - 3. Sin is the back drop for the glorious and great grace of God.