

Big Idea: Genesis 38 is especially awkward and terrible. But this story of Judah is important in its own way. But it's not because Judah is a good guy – he's at rock bottom, morally. But God in His providence begins to turn Judah around to being a leader.

I. Introduction

Why should we read parts of the Bible that are “awkward and terrible”?

II. Judah and the Canaanites

Genesis 38:1-5

How is Judah continuing the pattern in Genesis of *compromising with the world*?

III. Ur and Onan

Genesis 38:6-11

What is a levirate marriage?

IV. Tamar's Deception

Genesis 38:12-23

Are Tamar's actions justified? Why or why not?

V. Judah the Hypocrite

Genesis 38:24-25

What is the difference between hypocrisy

Matthew 23:25-25

and self-righteousness?

Luke 18:9-14

Does Judah repent?

Genesis 38:26

VI. Conclusion

Genesis 38:27-30

Compare Judah with Joseph

Compare Tamar with Ruth

Ruth 4:11-12

Application:

In what ways do you need to believe and trust God?

In what ways do you compromise with the world? What needs to change?