

# Genesis 38:1-30

## 38:1 –

1. Judah left his brothers maybe:
  - a. for suggesting they sell Joseph?
  - b. to start his own family?
2. Judah's friend was a Canaanite from Adullam named Hirah.

## 38:2 – Judah married a Canaanite woman, the daughter of SHUA

1. Judah's wife is not named.
2. Judah's three sons
  - a. Er
  - b. Onan
  - c. Shelah

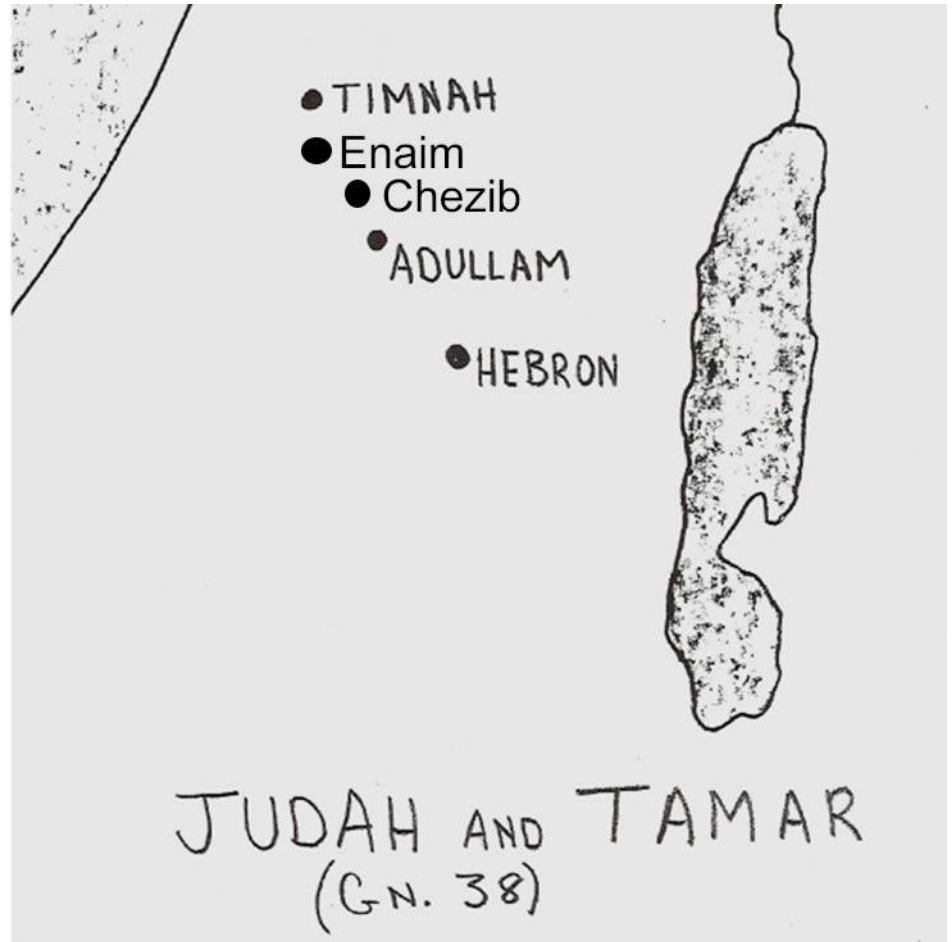
Chezib is a town in the Shephelah of Judah (the low-lying hills rising off the coast. Likely near Timnah and Adullam

## 38:7 – Er is first person named in the Bible who's life was "taken by the Lord"

## 38:6 – Wife for Er is TAMAR who is a Canaanite herself.

## 38:8 –

1. This is known as "LEVIRATE MARRIAGE" (the Hebrew word is *yibbum*)
  - a. *Levir* is Latin for "brother-in-law"
  - b. So, "brother-in-law marriage"
  - c. This practice was a way to help the widow produce a family and have economic security.
2. This is a law in the Mosaic Law and part of the Near-Eastern culture of the time
  - a. The Mosaic Law allowed a brother to refuse to marry his brother's wife by partaking in a public ceremony called *halitzah* where the widow would remove the man's sandal and spit at him for refusing to preserve his brother's name in Israel.
  - b. Deuteronomy 25:5-10
  - c. Ruth 4:8-9 where Ruth's redeemer took off his own sandal and said buy it yourself.
3. For the dead husband's line to continue. And, dividing the inheritance.
4. Judah does not ask ONAN to marry TAMAR, just asked him to "...perform his duty..."



**38:9** – Onan’s sin was cheating Tamar, his father and his dead brother Er.

**38:11** – Practiced in Ruth 1:11-13

Ruth 4:1-12

Matthew 22:24-25

**38:15** – Sheep-shearing time was payday and included a windfall of income with celebrations and men isolated from their family.

**38:18** –

1. These items would be like today’s passport, debit card, driver’s license.
2. the staff may have designated the head of the family.
3. The cord may have been a separate item like a rope wrapped around like a belt that had distinguishing colors or personal markings. OR, the cord may have been the string through the cylinder seal.

**38:20** – Hirah the Adullamite is a good friend and still with Judah.

**38:21** – Cult prostitute may have been active and practicing during harvest and shearing season as in Hosea 9:1-2 and Hosea 4:13-14. But, this cultural comparison is 1,200 years apart.

**38:23**

1. Judah uses the plural “we” to refer to both himself and his friend Hirah being laughed at.

**38:24** –

1. Judah is rash. Not considering he is guilty of withholding his son.
2. Judah does not consider the fact he had been in the Tamar’s home area with a prostitute.
3. Punishment of burning was rare and for most serious crimes

**38:27** – Judah’s twins with Tamar:

- Perez
- Zerah

**38:29** – Dennis Prager writes concerning this verse:

*“According to the genealogy recorded in the fourth chapter of the Book of Ruth, Perez later became the ancestor of David (Ruth 4::17) and, therefore, the ancestor of the Messiah. The Messiah thus stems from a strange and non-indigenous line: He will be the descendant of both a Canaanite woman (Tamar) and a Moabite woman (Ruth), two nations that were historic enemies of Israel. This is one of the moral lessons of the Torah: moral values matter more than national identity.”*



**Mesopotamian**  
**Steatite**  
**Cylinder Seal**  
**2000-1000 BC**



**Mesopotamian**  
**Limestone Cylinder Seal**  
**2000-1000 BC**











# Lapis Lazuli

/ LA - piss    LA - zuh-lee /

## Akkadian Cylinder Seal

2300 BC

Lapis Lazuli  
/ LA - piss    LA - zuh-lee /



Akkadian  
Cylinder Seal







