

Narrative and Theological Nuances In The Study Of Tamar

The Daughter In-Law Of Judah

By Tim Binion

I. Introduction

A. The Bible's Realistic Depiction of Human Sinfulness **B.** Tamar's Story in Chapter 38: An Overview
C. Significance: Tamar's Role in the Messianic Line

II. Narrative Nuances

A. Historical Parentheses: 22 Years Parallel to Joseph's Time in Egypt **B.** Parallel Lives of Joseph and Judah **C.** Judah's Spiritual Decline: Going Down Geographically and Spiritually **D.** Violation of God's Will for Marriage **E.** Levirate Marriage: Cultural Context and Onan's Deception **F.** Tamar's Predicament and the Complexity of Her Situation **G.** Tamar's Ingenious Plan and Its Unraveling

III. Theological Nuances

A. Judah's Depravity and the Threat to the Messianic Line **B.** Different Theological Views: **1.** Calvinist View: God's Determination of Events **2.** Arminian View: God's Sovereignty with Limited Control **3.** Open Theism: God's Knowledge Conditional on Human Actions **4.** Molinist Approach: Balancing Certainty and Contingency **C.** Mullins' Caution: Avoiding Errors in Understanding God's Sovereignty

IV. Second Theological Nuance

A. The Chapter's Purpose in the Bible's Overall Context **B.** The War Between the Serpent and the Seed **C.** Genesis 3:15: The Declaration of Enmity **D.** Tracing the Promise Seed Through Genealogies **E.** The War's Continuation: Examples from Pharaoh to Herod **F.** Revelation 12: The Ongoing Battle

V. Conclusion

A. Recap: Tamar's Story and Its Theological Significance **B.** Implications for Understanding God's Providence **C.** Theological Reflections on the War Between the Serpent and the Seed **D.** Closing Thoughts on Tamar's Role in the Grand Narrative