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Torah Portion Vayeshev 2009

The Birth Pangs of the Messiah

Genesis 38:1-3 Why did Judah leave his family in Canaan, move to an alien land, and marry a foreign wife?

Genesis 24:2-4 Abraham refused to let Isaac marry the pagan women in Canaan, and arranged for him to marry a girl from his family.

Genesis 26:34-35 Esau's Hittite wives are a source of difficulty to his parents, Isaac and Rebecca.

Genesis 27:46 Rebecca refuses to let Jacob marry pagan women.

Genesis 38:6 Why does Judah take a wife for his oldest son from one of the local, pagan women?

Genesis 38:8-10 Onan deliberately disobeys his father and cheats Tamar out of an offspring from the Levirate marriage.

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 The commandment of the Levirate marriage.

Genesis 38:11 Judah never intends on letting Tamar marry Shelah, condemning her to lifelong widowhood in her father's house.

Genesis 38:15-19 Why did Tamar commit what appears to be an obvious sin with her father-in-law?

Leviticus 18:15 Is this a sin against Judah, since Tamar was "promised" to Shelah and had been married to his oldest son?

Leviticus 18:20 Is the sin of adultery against Judah?

Genesis 39:7-9 Is Joseph more righteous than Judah because of this?

Genesis 38:24 Tamar the Harlot

Deuteronomy 22:20-22 Are these commandments against Tamar?

John 8:3-11 Does this in any way apply to Tamar?

Genesis 38:26 Does this absolve Tamar of her actions? If so, what about Judah's action that would have kept her "trapped" in her status of widowhood and putting her in such a desperate situation that she was forced into "harlotry" with Judah?

Genesis 38:27-30 The line of the Messiah.

Micah 2:13 Perez: The first coming of the Messiah.

The "breaker", in Hebrew is the word Poretz or Peh-Vav(Holam)-Resh-Tzadi, which shares the same root as Perez.

Isaiah 60:1-3 Zerah: The second coming of the Messiah.

Zerah's name means "dawning" (Zerach or Zayin-Resh-Chet, in Hebrew). The Prophets spoke of the coming of the Messianic age as "dawning".

Zerah was expected to be the first born by the midwife, just as Israel expected (and still expects) Messiah, the Conquering King to come first. Yet, Perez, Messiah the Suffering Servant, "broke through" in order to conquer sin and death, before his return when he will rule the nations.