

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### TAMAR: LESSON TWO

by Sandy Harber

**"... Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah"  
Genesis 38:1b**

After informing his father, Jacob, that his brother, Joseph, had been killed by a wild animal (Gen. 37:32-33), Judah left his remaining brothers and moved on to Adullam, a Canaanite town, about 15 miles from Hebron (where Jacob was living - Gen. 37:14). There he made friends with an Adullamite named Hirah. It is possible that Judah and Hirah formed a partnership in raising sheep.

During the years of Judah's friendship with Hirah he (Judah) married and had three sons (vv 2-5). The two elder sons grew up, married, and died (vv. 6-10). Then Judah's wife died as well (v. 12). The exact number of years is not given in Scripture but it is obvious that the friendship spanned decades (v. 12).

Scripture warns us about being unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14-15). This can be applied to a variety of relationships, including friendship and business partner.

Judah had left the fellowship of his father and brothers and united himself with idol worshippers. Canaanites had a variety of gods and goddesses that they worshipped, with rites that included sexual perversion and child sacrifice. Judah married a Canaanite woman (vv. 2, 12) and chose a Canaanite man for his friend and business partner (vv. 1, 12).

The problem with making unbelievers or idol worshippers our friends is that they can influence us to do things that do not please God. Their values are not our values. And it is all too easy for us to give in to peer pressure. In Judah's case, he and his friend Hirah decided to visit prostitutes (vv. 12-18).

Taking an unbeliever as a business partner puts us in the position of having to choose whether to follow God's Word or the worldly business practices of our partner. To get ahead or be successful as the world defines it, may involve a little cheating and lying, "fudging" the data on reports, etc. The thought process becomes "it's only business." Somehow we separate our business life from our spiritual life. We think what we do during the week has no bearing on our Sunday morning worship.

God does not want us to isolate ourselves from unbelievers. If we do that how will they ever hear the gospel? But He does want us to choose wisely those who are closest to us, those who are in a position of influence.

In the day when tragedy strikes we will be glad we chose godly people to stand with us, to provide advice and comfort. When we are at our lowest because of grief, loss, affliction, or suffering we need the encouragement that godly friends can provide. We need effectual prayer which can only come from one of God's Own children. Choose your friends wisely.

*"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path." Proverbs 1:10, 15*