

# Lot's daughters (Gen 19.30-39) and Tamar (Gen 38): fighting the patriarchy with deception and trickery

## WOMEN CHALLENGING FATHER FIGURES OVER PERPETUATION OF LINEAGE

And the firstborn said to the younger, "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, so that we may preserve offspring through our father." (19.32)

"...she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face." (38.14-15)

## THE ABSENCE OF A SUITABLE MAN DUE TO PATRIARCHAL CUSTOMS OR CHOICES, INCLUDING A "LEVIRITE" OPTION

"Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the world." (19.31)

"She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage." (38.14b)

## "WIDOWS" EXPERIENCING RECENT TRAUMA

Lot's daughters' fiancés are dead, along with their mother

"Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, 'Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up' —for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers [Tamar's husbands]." (38.11)

## THE FATHER FIGURES ARE RECENT WIDOWERS

"But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt." (19.26)

"In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died..." (38.12)

## "INCEST"

"So they made their father drink wine that night; and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; ....So they made their father drink wine that night also; and the younger rose, and lay with him; and he did not know when she lay down or when she rose." (19.35, 37)

"He went over to [Tamar] at the road side, and said, 'Come, let me come in to you'." (38.16)

## FATHER FIGURE DOESN'T "KNOW" WHAT THE WOMAN/WOMEN HAVE DONE

"...he did not know when she lay down or when she rose..." (19.35, again, 19.37)

"...for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law." (38.16)

## SONS ARE ANCESTORS OF DAVID, AND THUS, JESUS

"The firstborn bore a son, and named him Moab; he is the ancestor of the Moabites to this day. (19.38); Ruth was a Moabite" (Ruth 1.22)

"Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David." (Matt 1.5-6a)

"Therefore he was named Perez." (38.29)

"Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon, Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David. (Ruth 4.18-22)

Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. (Matt 1.3-6a)"