

Matthew 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

Analysis

The inclusion of Judah and Tamar highlights God's grace in using flawed individuals in Christ's lineage. Tamar's account (Genesis 38) involves deception and scandal, yet God sovereignly brings redemption through this broken family line. This foreshadows the gospel truth that Christ came to save sinners, not the righteous.

Historical Context

Tamar was a Canaanite woman who conceived twins through Judah after he failed to fulfill his levirate duty. This occurred during the patriarchal period, roughly 1900-1700 BC.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the inclusion of sinful and scandalous people in Christ's genealogy reveal about God's grace?

2. How does this genealogy challenge our assumptions about moral perfection as a prerequisite for God's use?

Interlinear Text

Ἰούδας	δὲ	ἐγέννησεν	τὸν	Φαρὲς	καὶ	τὸν	Ζαρά	ἐκ
Judas G2455	And G1161	begat G1080	G3588	Phares G5329	and G2532	G3588	Zara G2196	of G1537
τῆς	Θαμάρ·	Φαρὲς	δὲ	ἐγέννησεν	τὸν	Ἑσρὼμ	Ἑσρὼμ	
G3588	Thamar G2283	Phares G5329	And G1161	begat G1080	G3588	Esrom G2074	Esrom G2074	
δὲ	ἐγέννησεν	τὸν	Ἀράμ					
And G1161	begat G1080	G3588	Aram G689					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 46:12 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Pharez, and Zerah: but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul.

1 Chronicles 4:1 (Parallel theme): The sons of Judah; Pharez, Hezron, and Carmi, and Hur, and Shobal.