

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 Ζαρὰ ἐκ
Judas And begat G3588 Phares and G3588 Zara of
G2455 G1161 G1080 G5329 G2532 G2196 G1537

τῆς Θαμάρ· Φαρὲς δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἐσρὼμ Ἐσρὼμ
G3588 Thamar Phares And begat G3588 Esrom Esrom
G2283 G5329 G1161 G1080 G2074 G2074

δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀράμ
And begat G3588 Aram
G1161 G1080 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.