

Ruth 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.

Analysis

Prophetic prayer: '**And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman**'. The blessing references Pharez (Perez), ancestor of Boaz's clan, born through unusual circumstances to Tamar and Judah (Genesis 38). Tamar, like Ruth, was foreigner who demonstrated covenant loyalty exceeding Israelites'. The comparison shows awareness that God's purposes often advance through unexpected people and circumstances. The prayer 'let thy house be like...Pharez' proved spectacularly prophetic—Boaz and Ruth's descendant David established Israel's royal dynasty, and their ultimate descendant Jesus Christ established eternal kingdom. God's providence wove together Tamar's story, Ruth's story, and ultimately Mary's story in the genealogical tapestry culminating in Christ.

Historical Context

Pharez's story (Genesis 38) involved Tamar's righteous deception when Judah's sons failed kinsman-redeemer responsibility. Her actions, though unconventional, demonstrated covenant loyalty and secured Judah's line. The Bethlehem elders' reference to this story showed theological sophistication—recognizing patterns of God working through foreign women, unusual circumstances, and covenant faithfulness that transcends ethnicity. Pharez became ancestor of Judah's royal clan; Ruth would extend this line through David to Christ. The blessing proved

more prophetic than speakers imagined—Ruth didn't just produce prosperous family but became direct ancestress of Messiah.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the reference to Tamar and Pharez teach about God's grace incorporating messy, unconventional stories into redemptive history?
2. How does this blessing's fulfillment beyond imagination illustrate that God's plans exceed our highest prayers?

Interlinear Text

וְיַהְיָה	כְּבִית	כְּבִית	כְּבִית	אֲשֶׁר	אַלְדֵה
H1961	And let thy house	And let thy house	of Pharez	H834	bare
	H1004	H1004	H6557		H3205
whom Tamar	unto Judah	of the seed	Ash	which the LORD	יהוָה
H8559	H3063	H2233	H834	H5414	H3068
לְבָב	בְּפִעָלָה	בְּאַתָּה	לְבָב	לְבָב	לְבָב
H0	H4480	H2063	H5291	H4480	H4480
thee of this young woman					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 38:29 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee; therefore his name was called Pharez.

1 Samuel 2:20 (References Lord): And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.

1 Chronicles 2:4 (Parallel theme): And Tamar his daughter in law bare him Pharez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah were five.

Matthew 1:3 (Parallel theme): And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

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.