

2019 Western Christadelphian Bible School



John Pople - Redwood City, California

Leading Ladies

Class 1 - God of Widows - Tamar's Story

Leading Ladies

Jul 2019



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“The God of Widows”

Tamar’s Story

The God of Widows

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling. Ps 68:5*

God's Identity

A condition of
the Kingdom

THE GOOD NEWS
OF THE
KINGDOM
OF **GOD**

*When you are harvesting in your field and you
overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it
for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. Dt 24:19*

*if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the
widow... then I will let you live in this place, in the land
I gave your forefathers for ever and ever. Jer 7:6-7*

The First Widow: Tamar

Gen 38



The Precedental Widow

Gen 38

Er's wickedness couldn't provide a son for Tamar
Onan's wickedness wouldn't raise a son for Tamar
Judah intended to not provide a family for Tamar

Man doesn't care for widows => widow is a crisis situation

Tamar's Story

Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.” **Gen 38:24**

No one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the Lord, not even in the tenth generation. **Dt 23:2**



Tamar is rejected by Law for 10 generations, for other men's sins

The God of Widows

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**If you're not a widow,
God is not your God?**

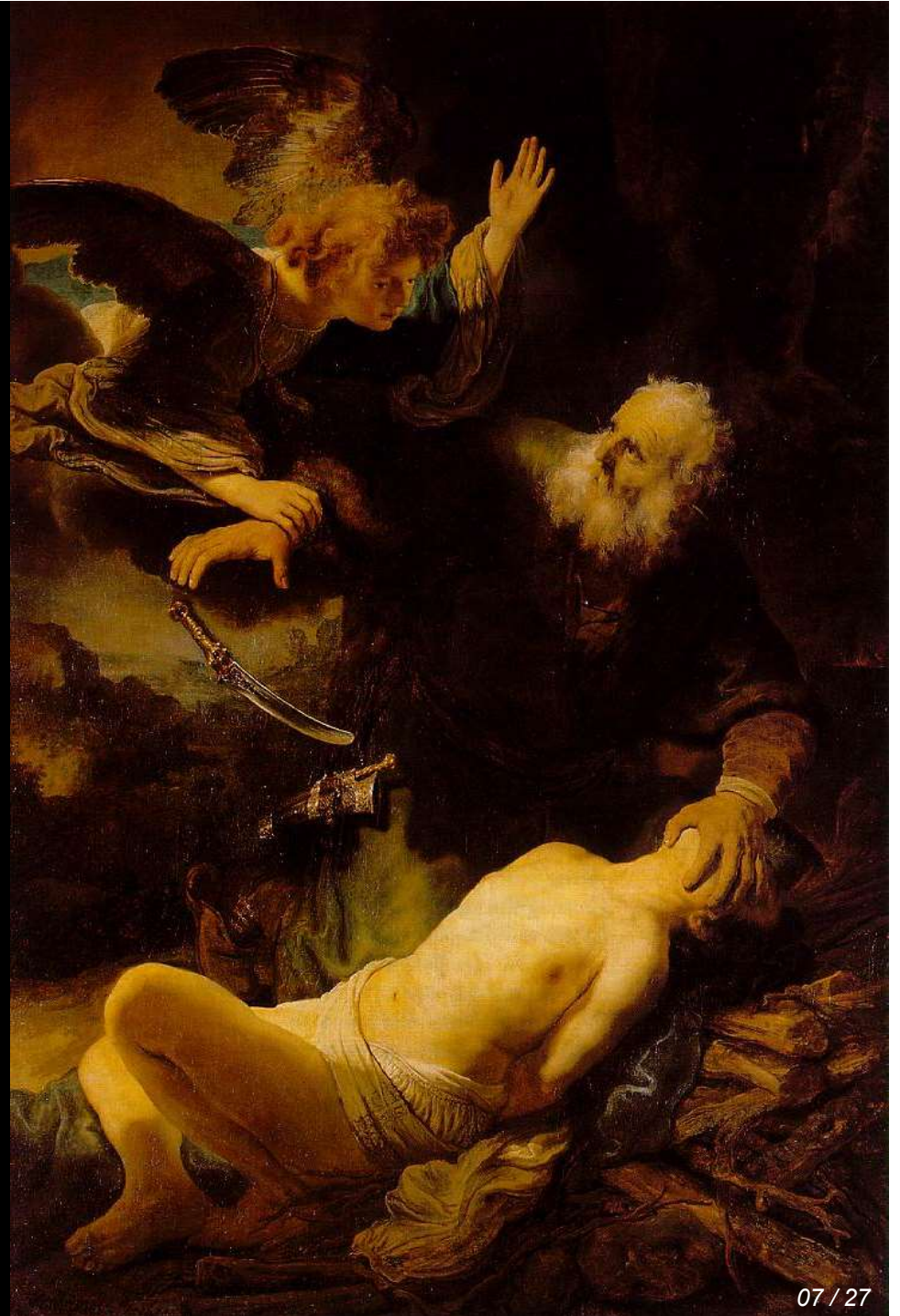
The God of Abraham

**God said to [Abraham],
“I will establish my covenant
...to be your God and the
God of your descendants
after you.” *Gen 17:3-7***

**If you're not of Abraham,
God is not your God**

**The promises were
spoken to Abraham and to
his seed... If you belong to
Christ, then you are
Abraham's seed, and heirs
according to the promise.**

Gal 3:16,29



The God of Israel

“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of [Israel].” Ex 3:6

**If you're not of Israel,
God is not your God**

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God. Gal 6:15-16

The God of Widows

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. Ps 68:5

In what way must I become a widow?

Law of the Married Woman



Husband



Married Woman

*By law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man. **Rom 7:2-3***

Why point this out? Why a hypothetical female? – Unusual

Law of the Married Woman



Husband



Widow

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Why point this out? Why a hypothetical female? – Unusual

Only the Widow Remarries



*For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. **Rom 7:5***

*But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released. **Rom 7:6***

*you also died to the law... that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. **Rom 7:4***

=> Spiritual Widow is a situation of glory, one who has overcome

Only the Widow Remarries



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Only the Widow Remarries



In authority

Christ



Widow

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Tamar Gen 38			
Jew			
Widow to Er/Onan			
Rejected by sins of men v24			
10 generations rejected Dt 23:2			

Tamar <i>Gen 38</i>	@ Zarephath <i>1 Kgs 17</i>		
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The Widow at Zarephath

1 Kgs 17:7-24

The Widow has no bread *v12*

Trust Man of God when out of bread *v13-15*

God provides bread when Widow believes *v15-16*

Resurrection is introduced via the widow *v22*

Resurrection is the Centre of the Gospel *1 Cor 15*

The First Resurrection

A Gentile widow's son

Made available in an upper room

Fellowship meal of bread and water

Elijah pleads the Widow's cause

“El-i-Jah” = My God is Jahweh

⇒ If Jahweh is my God, my name is “El-i-Jah”

“My God is Jah”

The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. 1 Kgs 17:22

Resurrection & Redemption

God hears the Voice of Elijah v22

The Man of God redeems the Widow v23

God resurrects a son for the Widow v23

“As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread.” v12



“Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.” v24

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	Trust man of God (Elijah) when out of bread <i>v13</i>		
	God provides bread when Widow believes <i>v13</i>		
	Man of God, Widow, share bread & water <i>v10-15</i>		
	Hope of Resurrection in Upper Room <i>v19</i>		
	God hears the Voice of Elijah <i>v20-22</i>		
	God provides a son for the Widow <i>v23</i>		
10 generations rejected <i>Dt 23:2</i>	Widow hears God, and is redeemed eternally <i>v24</i>		

Ruth: The Godly Widow

*In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. **Ruth 1:11***

*“Your people will be my people and your God my God.” **1:16***

The Widow has no bread **1:1; 2:2**

Trust Man of God when out of bread **1:16; 2:8-9**

God provides bread when Widow believes **1:22; 2:17-18**

Fellowship meal between Widow & Man of God **2:14**

Boaz said to her “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.”

Boaz: The Second Elijah

“May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” 2:12

“My God is Jah”

Man of God promises Redemption 3:13

God hears the Voice of Elijah

The Man of God redeems the Widow 4:9-10

God provides a son for the Widow 4:13

*When [Boaz] made love to [Ruth], **the Lord enabled her to conceive**, and she gave birth to a son. 4:13*

Ruth: The Voice of Elijah

The Widow (Naomi/Mara) loses faith

“No, my daughters. The hand of the LORD has gone out against me!” 1:13

Mara is unrecognizable to her peers

The women exclaimed, “Is this Naomi?” But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi [pleasant]; call me Mara [bitter], for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.” 1:19-20

Ruth sounds the Voice of Elijah

“Your people will be my people and your God my God.” 1:16


God hears the Voice of Elijah



“My God is Jah”

Naomi's belief is rekindled

“Is not Boaz... a kinsman of ours? ...go down to the threshing floor... uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” 3:2-4

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of an elderly woman's hands, which are wrinkled and weathered, gently holding the small, chubby hands of a baby. The baby's hands are positioned in the center, and the woman's hands are on either side, supporting them. The background is dark and out of focus.

God provides a son for the Widow

Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” 4:16-17

The Man of God redeems the Widow

Ruth redeems Naomi

Long-Awaited Redemption

*“Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.” **Ruth 4:12***

Tamar: the Precedental Widow

*No one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation. **Dt 23:2***



Ruth Redeems the Precedental Widow

*This, then, is the family line of **1** Perez:
Perez was the father of **2** Hezron,
Hezron the father of **3** Ram,
Ram the father of **4** Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of **5** Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of **6** Salmon,
Salmon the father of **7** Boaz,
Boaz the father of **8** Obed,
Obed the father of **9** Jesse,
and Jesse the father of **10** David.*

Ruth 4:18-22



Ruth, the Widow, redeems Tamar, the Precedental Widow

=> Leading Ladies

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	First, Elijah comes <i>v8</i> (Elijah = "My God is Jah")	"Your God [Jah] will be My God" <i>1:16</i>	Jesus: "My God is Jah" <i>Mt 26:42</i>
	Trust man of God (Elijah) when out of bread <i>v13</i>	Trust man of God (Boaz) when out of bread <i>2:8</i>	
	God provides bread when Widow believes <i>v13</i>	God provides bread when Widow believes <i>2:17 (1:22)</i>	
	Man of God, Widow, share bread & water <i>v10-15</i>	Man of God, Widow, share bread & wine vinegar <i>2:14</i>	
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Our Life as a Widow

Trust Man of God when out of bread *Mt 6:31-33*

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ ... your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

God provides bread when Widow believes *Jam 1:6*

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt

Jesus as Man of God, & God

God hears the Voice of Elijah *Jn 11:41-42*

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me."

God resurrects a son for the Widow *Lk 7:14-15*

He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

Man of God & Widow share meal *Mt 26:26-28*

Bread: *"Take and eat; this is my body."*

Wine: *"Drink from it, all of you!"*


Promise of resurrection made *1 Cor 15:20-22*

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead... so in Christ all will be made alive.

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Ruth <i>Ruth</i>	Us: AS WIDOW	Us: AS MAN OF GOD
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“Your God [Jah] will be My God” <i>1:16</i>	Jesus: “My God is Jah” <i>Mt 26:42</i>	Us: “My God is Jah” <i>Rom 10:13</i> <= <i>Joel 2:32</i>
Trust man of God (Boaz) when out of bread <i>2:8</i>	Trust man of God (Jesus) when out of bread <i>Mt 6:31</i>	Trusted to provide bread (Us) <i>Jam 2:16, 2 Tim 4:2</i>
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Man of God, Widow, share bread & wine vinegar <i>2:14</i>	Man of God, Widow, share bread & wine <i>1 Cor 11:26</i>	Share bread & wine with disenfranchised <i>Mt 25:40</i>
Redemption Promise on threshing floor <i>3:13</i>	Resurrection Promise in Upper Room <i>Mt 26:29</i>	Share Resurrection Promises <i>Mk 16:15</i>
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