

~ONAN (69)

(O'nan) [from a root meaning, generative power, dynamic energy]

- A son of Judah, his second by the Canaanite daughter of Shua.
- And there Judah got to see a daughter of a certain Canaanite, and his name was Shua. So he took her and had relations with her. (**Genesis 38:2**)
- And she became pregnant. Later she bore a son and he called his name Er. (**Genesis 38:3**)
- Again she became pregnant. In time she bore a son and called his name **Onan**. (**Genesis 38:4**)
- The sons of Judah were Er and **Onan** and Shelah. The three were born to him from Shuas daughter, the Canaanitess. And Er the firstborn of Judah came to be bad in the eyes of Yehowah, so that he put him to death. (**1 Chronicles 2:3**)
- After **Onans** childless older brother Er was put to death by Yehowah for wrongdoing, **Onan** was told by Judah to perform brother-in-law marriage with Er's widow Tamar.
- If a son was produced, he would not be the founder of Onan's family, and the firstborns inheritance would belong to him as an heir to Er, whereas if no heir came, **Onan** would get the inheritance for himself.
- When **Onan** had relations with Tamar, he **wasted his semen on the earth** instead of giving it to her. This was not an act of masturbation on the part of **Onan**, for the account says when he did have relations with his brother's wife he spilled his semen.
- Apparently it was a case of **coitus interruptus**, in which **Onan** purposely prevented ejaculation of his semen into Tamar's genital tract.
- For his disobedience to his father, his covetousness, and his sin against the divine arrangement of marriage, not for self-abuse, **Onan**, himself also childless, was put to death by Yehowah.

- In time Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. (**Genesis 38:6**)
- But Er, Judah's firstborn, proved to be bad in the eyes of Yehowah, hence Yehowah put him to death. (**Genesis 38:7**)
- In view of that Judah said to **Onan**; Have relations with your brother's wife and perform brother-in-law marriage with her and raise up offspring for your brother. (**Genesis 38:8**)
- But **Onan** knew that the offspring would not become his, and it occurred that when he did have relations with his brother's wife he wasted his semen on the earth so as not to give offspring to his brother. (**Genesis 38:9**)
- Now what he did was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, hence he put him also to death. (**Genesis 38:10**)
- And the sons of Judah were Er and **Onan** and Shelah and Perez and Zerah. However, Er and **Onan** died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Perez came to be Hezron and Hamul. (**Genesis 46:12**)
- The sons of Judah were Er and **Onan**. However, Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. (**Numbers 26:19**)