

Tamar was widowed. Could she have eventually married someone else? How would she support herself eventually?

Judah chose Tamar to be Er's wife (Ge 38:6–10); but, Er died without fathering any children leaving Onan to raise up a child with her. Onan; however, also died without fathering any children. Judah promised Tamar that his youngest son, Shelah, would take her as his wife (vv. 11-13).

Tamar instead disguised herself as a prostitute and seduced Judah (vv 14-23). Upon learning that Tamar had become pregnant as an adulteress, Judah condemned her to death (vv 14-23). Tamar produced evidence proving that it was Judah, himself, who had impregnated her (vv 24-25). Judah confessed, "She was more in the right than I am." Vv 26-30.

Levirate marriages (from Latin, *levir*, "husband's brother") were permitted under the Mosaic law. The brother of a deceased man could marry his widowed sister-in-law to provide an heir. Such marriages were not compulsory (Deut 25:5-10).

A wife is under the law of marriage until the death of her husband (Rom. 7:2, 3).¹ Her husband should: love (Eph. 5:25–33), honor (1 Pet 3:7) and provide (1 Tim 5:8) for her.

If she is widowed², she will be cared for by God (Ex. 22:22–24). She is to trust in him continuing on in supplications and prayers night and day (1 Ti 5:5). Anyone who mistreats her³ will give an account to God (Ro 14:12).

¹ A wife is created for her husband alone (Prov. 5:15–17, 20, Mt 19:5,6, 1 Co 7:39–40).

² Visit [ἐπισκέπτομαι select carefully, take care of, be present] (Jas 1:27) and honor [τιμὴ the "worth" one ascribes to a person] that are widows indeed (1 Ti 5:3-5).

³ Mistreatment of widows, by: children (1 Tim. 5:4), neglect (Acts 6:1), scribes (Mark 12:40), creditors (2 Kin. 4:1), princes (Is. 1:23), judges (Is. 10:1, 2). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 648). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.