

The subject of this thesis is an exegetical study on chapter thirty-eight of the book Genesis; a narrative of the story about Judah and Tamar. The thesis begins with a critical analysis of the original Hebrew text. In the second section, a critical examination of the text is undertaken using synchronous and diachronous methods, followed by a verse-by-verse commentary which includes three excursuses. The first excursus discusses levirate marriage. The second is concerned with Hebrew word קדשה and with its meaning and translation. The theme of the third excursus is the understanding of righteousness as social solidarity in the Old Testament. Subsequently, in the final section of the thesis, the reception of Genesis 38 in the Old and New Testaments is considered. Furthermore, four examples of reception and interpretation throughout Christian history are presented: The Book of Jubilees, Commentary on Genesis by Ephrem the Syrian, Martin Luther's Lectures on Genesis and an interpretation by Dorothee Sölle as an example of feminism and liberation theology. Lastly, to conclude, the application of the story is proposed, which could serve as a starting point for subsequent theological work.