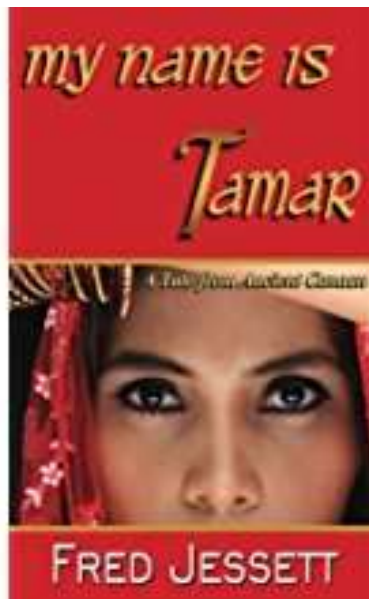


My Name Is Tamar: A Tale from Ancient Canaan



By Fred Jessett

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

My Name Is Tamar tells the story of a young Canaanite girl, whose character is taken from the Bible, Chapter 38 in the Book of Genesis. The author tells her story as he imagined it might be. When she is fourteen, she is married to the eldest son of a Hebrew man named Judah. Judah has high hopes that she will produce heirs, especially sons, but instead she experiences rape and much abuse. After her husband dies unexpectedly, she marries Judah's second son who is also cruel and he, too, dies. Judah does not offer his third son because he is afraid that he might die, too. Meanwhile, Tamar is desperate to be married and have children. In disguise, acting as a prostitute, she decides to seduce her widowed father-in-law, who she feels is a good and decent man. This was a very dangerous thing to do, for she could be put to death.

This is a well-written book with well-defined characters. It's a page turner and a good read. I've always enjoyed reading stories taken from the Bible and Jessett did a good job describing what life was probably like back in Biblical times and how poorly and unfairly women were often treated.



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