

The Bible Times

I Can't Believe That's In The Bible



Number 13

April 19, 2020

Religious Ceremony Used To Wipe Out A City

- Before we begin chapter 34, review the members of Jacob's family. Those who are most prominent in this chapter are highlighted in bold. **What do you notice about them?**

<u>Leah</u>	<u>Zilpah (Leah's servant)</u>	<u>Rachel</u>	<u>Bilhah (Rachel's servant)</u>
1 – Reuben	7 – Gad	11 – Joseph	5 – Dan
2 – Simeon	8 – Asher	<i>12 – Benjamin</i>	6 – Naphtali
3 – Levi			
4 – Judah			
9 – Issachar			
10 – Zebulun			
Dinah			

Read Genesis 34:1-4

- **When have we heard about Shechem before?** (cf. 33:19)
- **What do we learn about Shechem from these verses?**
- **How old is Dinah at this time?**
 - Genesis 30:19-24 – ¹⁹ Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun. ²¹ Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah. ²² Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." ²⁴ She named him Joseph, and said, "May the LORD add to me another son."
 - Genesis 37:2,28 – Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. ... ²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Commented [S1]: They are full siblings

Also note that this chapter will start to explain why the promise continues through Judah and not one of the first 3.

Commented [S2]: "The father, incidentally, was the man from whom Jacob had earlier purchased the piece of property on which he was living." (PB279)

Commented [S3]:

- Son of the ruler
- Loose morals.
- "The Hebrew verb describes his act as an act of violence, of humiliating another person. Shechem viewed the sexual act as a conquest, which is understandable when we remember he was a heathen." (PB279)
- He did love her, but when did that love begin? Before or after his conquest of her?

Commented [S4]: Don't know for sure

Keil & Delitzsch suggest between 13 and 15

She was born around the time of Joseph
Joseph sold into slavery at 17
That is still to come

Read Genesis 34:5-7

- Verse 5 tells us that “Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter Dinah, but since his sons were with his livestock in the field, he remained silent until they returned.” What questions come to mind here?
- Note that Shechem’s father (Hamar) comes to speak with Jacob, but since Jacob’s sons arrive home at that same time, he speaks not only to Jacob but also to his sons.

Commented [S5]:
How did Jacob hear about this?
• Did Dinah tell him?
• PB suggests: “Perhaps Jacob first became aware that something had happened to Dinah when she didn’t return home that evening. It seems that since young Shechem had secured his father’s permission to marry Dinah he took her to his home.” (279)
Why didn’t Jacob act when he heard about it?
• Was it because of his age (over 100)
Would Jacob have acted more decisively if it had been Rachel’s daughter instead of Leah’s who had been attacked?

Read Genesis 34:8-12

- What concessions did Hamar (the tribal chief) make to try and get Dinah as his daughter-in-law? Was he sincere?
- When Shechem entered the conversation, he expressed that he was willing to pay any price in order to get Dinah. What did that express to her brothers?

Commented [S6]: “If Hamor’s offer was made sincerely (and in the light of verse 23 one must question that), he offered Jacob’s family privileges that resident aliens did not normally enjoy: the right to *settle* in the land, the right to *intermarry* with the Canaanites, the right to *acquire property*, and the right to *transact business*. These were major concessions the father was offering.” (PB281)

Commented [S7]: Initial reaction might be to see how much he loved her and was willing to do anything...however, verse 31 signals that the brothers viewed this request as Shechem treating their sister like a prostitute

Read Genesis 34:13-17

- What is wrong with the request made here that Shechem and the others be circumcised?
- What is wrong with the suggestion that they would intermarry with them?

Commented [S8]: “By dragging the matter of circumcision into the conversation, the brothers were treating flippantly the special covenant sign God had given his people several generations earlier. Like applying water in Baptism and like eating bread and drinking wine in the Lord’s Supper, the act of circumcision had no special value in and of itself. God had given circumcision to his people as a seal of the righteousness that comes through faith. **For the Shechemites to receive the badge of the covenant in their bodies without faith in Israel’s God would make a mockery of God’s covenant as well as of the covenant sign,** and Jacob’s sons knew that.” (PB282)

Commented [S9]: This was the covenant people... they should not be intermarrying with heathen nations

Read Genesis 34:18-24

- To convince the townsmen to become circumcised, what arguments did Hamor and Shechem use?

Commented [S10]:
• “The members of Jacob’s family are peaceably inclined toward us.”
• “The land is big enough. There’s room for their family.”
• “They are very well-to-do, and if we let them transact business, we stand to benefit. Their wealth—large herds and flocks—will become ours. Submitting to their religious scruples is really a small price to pay for what we stand to gain.”

Read Genesis 34:25-31

- How was it that two young men were able to kill and plunder the entire city?
- Characterize Jacob's rebuke of his sons.
- Note: "Let it not be forgotten that Moses, the man through whom the Holy Spirit recorded this narrative, was himself a descendant of Levi. He surely did not hesitate to describe the sin of his ancestor in all of its ugliness and depravity."
(People's Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.285)
- Why is this chapter recorded in the Bible?

Commented [S11]: The men of the city were suffering the pain of circumcision

Commented [S12]: Very limited

"he spoke only of the consequences the family could now expect to receive from other Canaanite tribes. What Jacob owed his sons was the *full rebuke of God's law* on their bloodthirstiness, cruelty, and greed, but that he withheld." (PB284-285)

Commented [S13]: Shows how Simeon and Levi disqualified themselves from being the heir of the promise

See also Genesis 49 – Jacob's last words to his sons
(back page)

Prayer – O Lord, please forgive us for all the times that we have taken revenge. Help us to never to abuse those gifts that you give to us Help us to live in your forgiveness and love and to show that to one another. We pray for these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Genesis 49

Then Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather around, and I will tell you what will happen to you in the days to come.

² Come together and listen, sons of Jacob;
listen to your father Israel:

³ Reuben, you are my firstborn,
my strength and the firstfruits of my virility,
excelling in prominence, excelling in power.

⁴ Turbulent as water, you will no longer excel,
because you got into your father’s bed
and you defiled it—he got into my bed.

⁵ Simeon and Levi are brothers;
their knives are vicious weapons.

⁶ May I never enter their council;
may I never join their assembly.
For in their anger they kill men,
and on a whim they hamstring oxen.

⁷ Their anger is cursed, for it is strong,
and their fury, for it is cruel!
I will disperse them throughout Jacob
and scatter them throughout Israel.

⁸ Judah, your brothers will praise you.
Your hand will be on the necks of your enemies;
your father’s sons will bow down to you.

⁹ Judah is a young lion —
my son, you return from the kill.
He crouches; he lies down like a lion
or a lioness—who dares to rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah
or the staff from between his feet
until He whose right it is comes
and the obedience of the peoples belongs to Him...