

Jacob—Genesis 34-36

Jacob Returns to Canaan

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 34:1...** WENT OUT TO SEE THE DAUGHTERS OF THE LAND—“Before leaving this passage, we should note again that Dinah's evident intention of being entertained by the pagan community, whether with parental consent or not, was dangerous. There was not only the physical danger, but the moral and religious danger also. The sensuous worship indulged by the Canaanites would have had its allurements for Dinah” [Coffman].
- 34:2...** HE TOOK HER, AND LAY WITH HER, AND DEFILED HER—“Scripture classifies Shechem's action as forcible rape, no matter how sincerely he might have expressed his love for her afterwards (v. 3) and desire for marriage (vv. 11-12). Other expressions in the account underscore the clearly unacceptable nature of this crime, e.g., 'defiled' (vv. 5, 13), 'grieved and very angry' (v. 7), 'a disgraceful thing ... which ought not to be done' (v. 7), and 'treat our sister like a harlot' (v. 31)” [MacArthur Study Bible, p. 65].
- 34:8-12 + 23...** Notice how Hamor and Shechem speak one way when in the presence of Jacob and his family and another entirely different way when they were among their own people only.
- 34:25-29...** SIMEON'S AND LEVI'S ACTIONS—“A massacre of all males and the wholesale plunder of the city went way beyond the reasonable, wise, and justly deserved punishment of one man, this was a considerably more excessive vengeance than the Mosaic law would later legislate (cf., Deut 22:28-29)” [MacArthur Study Bible, p. 66]. ||| It is interesting to observe that the vengeful actions of Simeon and Levi would be remembered by their father when it came time to bless his sons (Gen 49:5-7).
- 35:1-15...** “**A transforming Experience...** God intervened at this point to direct Jacob to move his family to Bethel. He was to build an altar to the God who had appeared to him there so many years before. Jacob knew that he needed to make spiritual preparations before going back to that sacred spot. He urged his family to remove all foreign gods, purify themselves, and symbolize the same by changing apparel. The family complied. Jacob buried all the pagan paraphernalia of his family under the oak at Shechem. God kept his word to bring Jacob safely back to Bethel, for his terror fell upon the Canaanites and they were afraid to attack Jacob (35:2-5)” [The Pentateuch, by James E. Smith, p. 202].
- 35:18...** BENONI—“The dying mother appropriately named her newly born son 'Son of my sorrow,' but the grieving father named him 'Son of my right hand,' thus assigning him a place of honor in the home. Her prayer at the birth of her firstborn was answered (30:24)” [MacArthur Study Bible, p. 67].
- 35:21...** “This blunt note of Reuben's conduct seems to have been introduced here in anticipation of Reuben's loss of birthright (Gen. 49:4). It is amazing that none of the details about Jacob's reaction to this crime, nor any other consequence of it, is cited here. His morality is mentioned again in Deut. 33:6, and the fact of its costing him his birthright appears in 1 Chr. 5:1” [Coffman].
- 36:1-19...** “The taking up of 'the history of Jacob' (37:2), the next patriarch, is preceded by a fairly detailed genealogy of Esau, to which is appended both the genealogy of Seir the Horite, whose descendants were the contemporary inhabitants of Edom and a listing of Edomite kings and chiefs. Jacob's and Esau's posterities, as history would go on to show,

would not be in isolation from each others as originally intended (vv. 6-8). They were to become bitter enemies engaged with each other in war” [MacArthur Study Bible, p. 67].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

LIFE OF JACOB “The Supplanter and Saint”			
In Beersheba Gen 25:19—28:9	In Padanaram Gen 28:10—31:55	In Canaan Gen 32:1—45:28	In Goshen Gen 46:1—49:33
With his parents	With his in-laws	With his sons	With his grandsons
Birth to 77 (77 years)	Age 77 to 97 (20 years)	Age 97-130 (33 years)	Age 131-147 (17 years)
Antagonist was Esau	Antagonist was Laban	Antagonists were his sons	No Antagonism
Gains: Birthright and Blessing	Gains: Wives and Wealth	Loses: Wives and Children	Regains: Family
ACQUIRING BLESSING	ACCUMULATING WEALTH	SUFFERING ADVERSITY	EXPERIENCING TRANQUILITY

[Content of this table taken from: *The Pentateuch*, by James E. Smith, p. 203.]

III. Summary.

These three chapters take us up to the time of transitioning into a new Bible Period: Egyptian Bondage. Jacob is now the center of our attention. Chapter 34 gives the details of a massive and brutal slaughter conducted by Simeon and Levi (and perhaps others of Jacob’s sons, v. 27) as they took revenge on Hamor’s city for Shechem’s rape of their sister, Dinah. Chapter 35 tells of the Lord’s call for Jacob to proceed to Bethel, of their preparation to go there, the birth of Benjamin, the death of Rachel, and the death of Isaac at the age of 180. Chapter 36 is a genealogy chapter, which presents the offspring of Esau and also Seir, the Horite, indicating God’s interest in all mankind and not just the chosen family.

IV. Outline.

1. Dinah is raped and the rapist and his father make an appeal to Jacob (Gen 34:1-12).
2. Jacob’s sons, in their guile, have a deal for the Shechemites (Gen 34:13-24).
3. Simeon and Levi slay the males and plunder the city, making Jacob odious to the inhabitants of the land (Gen 34:25-31).
4. God sends Jacob to Bethel (Gen 35:1-15).
5. Rachel bears another son at Bethlehem and dies in childbearing (Gen 35:16-20).
6. Jacob pitched his tent beyond the tower at Eder (Gen 35:21).
7. Reuben’s sin (Gen 35:22).
8. Listing of the sons of Jacob (Gen 35:23-26).
9. Isaac’s death is recorded (Gen 35:27-29).
10. Esau’s Family (Gen 36:1-19).
11. Seir’s Family (Gen 36:20-30).
12. Rulers of Edom (Gen 36:31-43).

V. Questions.**True or False**

01. _____ Isaac lived more than 200 years.
02. _____ Jacob caused his household to make preparation before going to Bethel.
03. _____ Hamor was the son of Shechem.
04. _____ Simeon, Levi, and Dinah were children of Leah.
05. _____ Shechem is described in this reading as “uncircumcised.”

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ The murder weapon used against Hamor and Shechem was: (a) a rope; (b) a bow and arrow; (c) a sword.
07. _____ Hamor’s desire was to do this with Jacob’s family: (a) fight; (b) conduct business; (c) intermingle and marry; (d) b & c.
08. _____ The place of Rachel’s burial was: (a) Machpelah; (b) Gibeon; (c) Bethlehem.
09. _____ Jacob told his family that God had answered him in: (a) the midst of great sadness; (b) the day of his distress; (c) the blessing of children.
10. _____ What kind of offering did Jacob offer at Bethel: (a) a ram; (b) two turtledoves; (c) a drink offering.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto _____, unto the city of Arbah, which is _____, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.
12. “And let us arise, and go up to _____; and I will make there an _____ unto God...”
13. The days of Isaac were _____ years.
14. Shechem told the men of his city: “Shall not their _____ and their _____ and every beast of theirs be ours?...”
15. “And Dinah, the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to _____ the daughters of the _____.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Genesis 32-33 Questions... [01—False, Gen 33:12ff; 02—False, Gen 33:5-7; 03—True, Gen 32:15; 04—True, Gen 32:30; 05—False, Gen 33:1; 32:6; 06—c, Gen 32:3; 07—b, Gen 33:17; 08—b, Gen 32:26; 09—c, Gen 32:13-15; 10—b, Gen 33:3; 11—enough, brother, Gen 33:9; 12—two, bands, Gen 32:7; 13—Jabbock, Gen 32:22; 14—graciously, Gen 33:11; 15—limped, Gen 32:31.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...went out to see the daughters of the land** (Gen 34:1). This was a large mistake. It has implications regarding association and parental responsibilities. The kind of people who lived in Canaan were the kind of people who would do exactly what Shechem did to Dinah. It was a huge mistake for Jacob & Leah to allow her to do so. Perhaps Dinah slipped away without the knowledge and consent of her parents, yet, had they done the proper job of warning her about consequences of such behavior there is at least a good probability she would not have gone. Evil associations will bring evil results (1 Corinthians 15:33).
2. **And his soul clave unto Dinah...** (Gen 34:3). These descriptions of Shechem’s “love” of Dinah should not cause us to think what he did was anything less than what it was. He raped Dinah and was deserving of punishment.

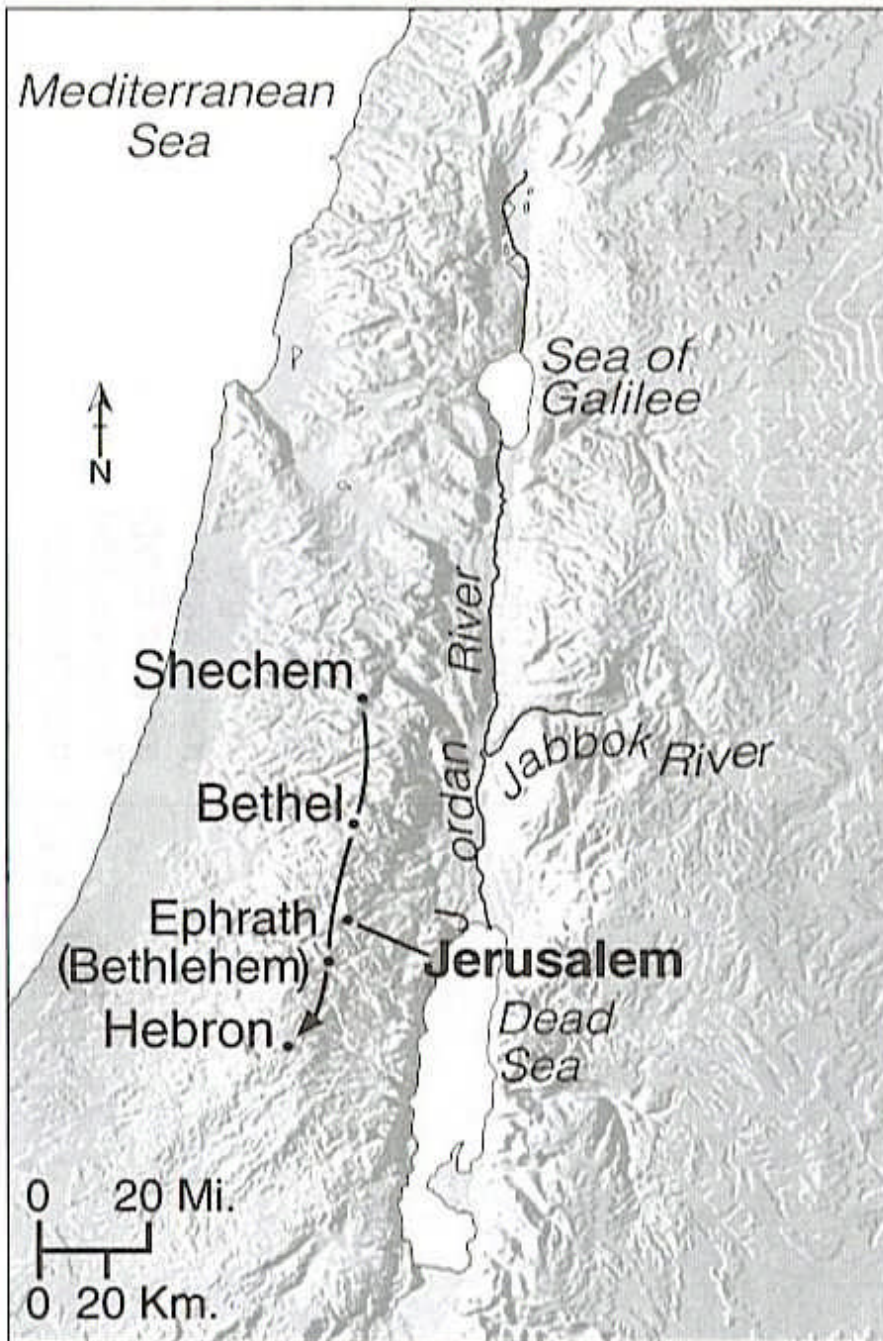
3. **And Hamor communed with them saying...** (Gen 34:8ff). The deception of this statement is seen in the words that were used to explain the situation to his own people in verses 20-24. After getting an “agreement” with Jacob’s family, he then had to sell it to the men of the city. We are here once again reminded that communing with dishonest men is a large mistake. In our dealings with men the ethical system that makes agreements “do-able” is that ethical system which is far superior to any other system—the word of Almighty God, the Bible. The idea of letting YES be YES and NO be NO makes commerce and any other kind of agreement possible. We are also repulsed by the deceitful way that the sons of Jacob, especially Simeon and Levi, made their deal. There was never any intention of honoring their statement about joining in full fellowship with the people of Hamor and Shechem.
4. **...he was more honorable than all the house of his father** (Gen 34:19). In context, this is referring to the fact that Shechem was willing to marry the girl he had raped. There is indeed some honor in that fact, however, let us not set him up as an example to follow and let us not forget the violent act he perpetrated upon Dinah. Moreover, has the will of Dinah been taken into consideration?
5. **And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword,...** (Gen 34:26). This action is a sad chapter in the life of Jacob. His sons have severely tried him and brought him much grief. He tells them plainly how their action has affected him in verse 30. Please keep in mind, also, that at the time of the blessing in Egypt this deed had an effect upon the inheritance (Gen 49:5-7).
6. **...be clean and change your garments** (Gen 35:2). There was about to take place a visit to the place where Jacob had previously met with God. Jacob is clearly emphasizing here the importance of this occasion and the need to present himself and his family in the best way possible before the Lord. We might ask ourselves if this text has any application to our own lives as we present ourselves before the Lord in our meetinghouses for the purpose of worship to the God of heaven.
7. **...the terror of God was upon the cities...** (Gen 35:5). Even after such a terrible slaughter as Jacob’s sons had wrought in the land, the people feared Jacob’s family. After humbling themselves before God, they were protected by God. This is one of those times when God’s people recognized their dependence upon Him and as a result he blessed them. We likewise need to stay away from the INDEPENDENT-thinking mode and recognize our dependence upon God.
8. **Chapter 36 indicates the care and concern of God for other people outside of the chosen family.**

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

S B W S X C D F E R F V A B G T Y H N M
 T J E U Y H N A B G T R F P V C D E W S
 N Z A T Q W S C X C D E R F P V B G T Y
 E B N H H Y T E G B V F R E D E X S W Q
 M X S W E E C V F R T G B N H Y A U J M
 R M D W E L L B G T A R E D C X S R W Q
 A A Z X S W E D C V F L R T G B N Y E U
 G C H A N G E B G T Y J T U J M Y H N D
 B G T R F V C D E W S S X A Z A Q W S X
 C D E R F V B G T Y D U J M R B G T E S
 F L E D D E S T S O C R F V B G T Y U S
 C D E R F V B T G U A N S W E R E D M E
 N H Y T G B V E E D C X S W Q A Z X S R
 C D Y E R F G V F R N T G B N H Y U J T
 B G A E D N C X Z A D L O H E S U O H S
 C D W E A D C V E R F V B G T Y H N M I
 N H A R E D C L X Z A Q W S X C D E R D
 R F T C V F C F R T G B V F Y H N T R F
 C S U V G E B G T Y H N A R I S E N H Y
 G T P E B D C V F R T G B N H Y U D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Genesis 35:1-3... ¹And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to **Bethel**, and **dwelt** there: and make there an **altar** unto God, that **appeared** unto thee when thou **fleddest** from the **face** of Esau thy brother. ²Then Jacob said unto his **household**, and to all that *were* with him, **Put away** the **strange gods** that *are* among you, and **be clean**, and **change** your **garments**: ³And let us **arise**, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who **answered me** in the day of my **distress**, and was with me in the way which I went.



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JACOB'S JOURNEY BACK TO HEBRON

Genesis 35:1-21

After Jacob's sons Simeon and Levi destroyed Shechem, God told Jacob to move to Bethel. There God reminded him that his name, Jacob, had been changed to Israel. He then traveled to Hebron, but along the way, his dear wife Rachel died near Ephrath (Bethlehem).