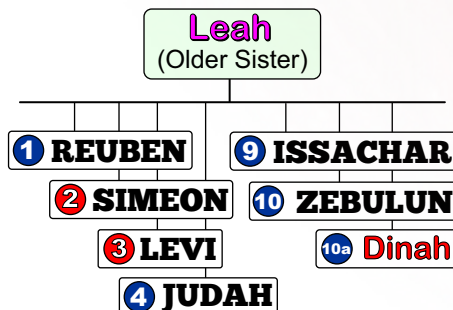
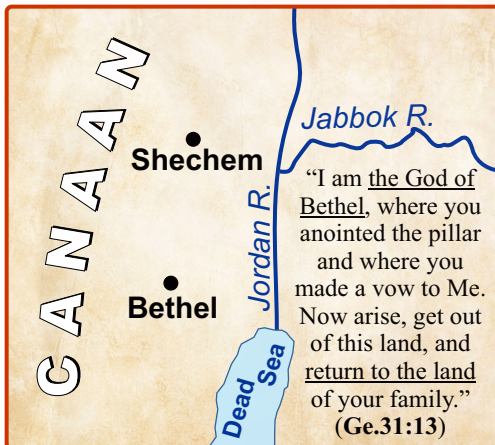


DINAH IS DEFILED – GENESIS 34

Jacob has survived his reunion with his brother Esau and settled his family in the land of Canaan, in a city called Shechem. Some time passes and then Jacob's daughter Dinah is raped by the son of the ruler of the city. To exact revenge and defend their sister's honor, Jacob's sons trick the men of the city into being circumcised and then slaughter all of them when they are recovering, plundering all the wealth of the people.

PURPOSE FOR THIS CHAPTER

1. Moses gives a reason for the sanctification of Jacob's household that follows (Ge.35:2-4)
2. Moses is showing the importance of keeping the chosen seed separate from the Canaanites.
3. It explains why Jacob passed over Simeon and Levi for the special blessing (Ge.49).
4. It demonstrates the sovereign control of God.



THE RAPE OF DINAH (v.1-4)

- Dinah is the only daughter mentioned in Jacob's lineage (Ge.30:21), but there were other daughters (Ge.37:35).
- Remember, Jacob brought his family to a place God didn't really want them to be. God directed him to return to Bethel (Ge.31:13).
- To "violate her" means "to humble" in the sense of violent sexual attack — rape.

ANGER OF SIMEON AND LEVI (v.5-7)

- Dinah was raped by an uncircumcised Canaanite! The sons took matters into their own hands.
- Perhaps if Dinah were Jacob's daughter by Rachel rather than by Leah, he would have acted differently.

HAMOR AND SHECHEM SEEK TO ARRANGE MARRIAGE TO DINAH (v.8-12)

- Jacob should have journeyed to Bethel. He stayed near Shechem (the city) too long.
- Now violence and pain will be the cost of his delinquent obedience.

THE COUNTEROFFER: CIRCUMCISISM (v.13-17)

- It seems that Jacob should have taken the leadership in his family and prevent his sons from their deception.
- The real reproach—the sin of rape—is ignored, and they make the reproach on the basis of the rule which God had given them regarding intermarriage with the uncircumcised.
- The sacred sign of God's covenant was to be used wickedly.

HAMOR AND SHECHEM CONVINCE THE MEN OF THE CITY WITH THE PLAN (v.18-24)

- The Canaanites accepted the proposal and had every male in town circumcised, not only so that Shechem could have Dinah but also so that they could subtly acquire all the Israelites' livestock and other property.
- In other words, through intermarriage these men expected to eventually own everything that Jacob had.

MASSACRE OF THE MEN OF THE CITY OF SHECHEM (v.25)

- Grown men would have been extremely sore on the third day after circumcision.
- The sons knew this fact and took advantage of it by totally slaughtering the male population.
- Simeon and Levi slaughtered the Canaanite males while they were in pain from the circumcision and still weak while healing.

THEY RESCUE DINAH AND PLUNDER THE CITY (v.26-29)

- While Simeon and Levi took the lead in this atrocity, all of Jacob's sons evidently participated with them in the looting of the city.
- They took the women and children and all of the possessions for their own.

JACOB'S REACTION (v.30-31)

- Notice something that is obviously wrong here in the life of Jacob. Jacob rebukes Simeon and Levi for giving him a bad name, but he doesn't rebuke them for the sin that they have committed.
- Jacob protests that the consequences of their action have made him unpopular.

