

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar.....Genesis 21-23.....A Substitute
- 2) 10 Mar.....Genesis 24.....Guidance Needed
- 3) 17 Mar.....Genesis 25-27.....A Deceiver
- 4) 24 Mar.....Genesis 28-30.....A Stairway
- 5) 31 Mar.....John 20.....Believe!
- 6) 07 Apr.....Genesis 30-31.....Blessed
- 7) 14 Apr.....Genesis 32-33.....Wrestled
- 8) 21 Apr.....Genesis 34-36.....Renewed**
- 9) 28 Apr.....Genesis 37.....Dreamer
- 10) 05 May.....Genesis 38-39.....Accused
- 11) 12 May.....Genesis 40-41.....Revealed
- 12) 19 May.....Genesis 42-46.....Reconcile
- 13) 26 May.....Genesis 47-50.....Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- Dinah, Jacob's only daughter, is raped, and her brothers take revenge by killing every man in town and absconding with the town's women and wealth; and Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin. Will the drama and pain ever end?

Passage	Comments
34:1-4	<p>Dinah is raped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact of Life – Bad things happen to good people • The weaker members of society seem to suffer the most (women, children, handicapped, the aged) • Why didn't God prevent this violation? After all, God prevented harm from coming to Jacob Gen 31:7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God apparently allowed it for a higher purpose ♦ Tough circumstances show what people are really made of..... Prov 24:10; 1Cor 11:19
34:5-12	<p>Love vs Lust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shechem seems to be in love & is willing to pay any price to acquire Dinah as his wife. Was it Love or Lust? • He should have waited for Deut 22:28-29 to be written, then he would've only had to pay 50 shekels • v2. Shechem was a Hivite, a descendant of Noah-Ham-Canaan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Esau married a Hivite and 3 Hittites – who were also descendants of Canaan Gen 26:34; 36:2 ♦ Hivites – 1 of 6 nations God commanded Israel to annihilate completely before taking over their land – Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites Deut 7:1-2; 29:7 ♦ These six nations were worse than most others in their sexual debauchery, violence, idolatry, child sacrifices and even bestiality Lev 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one other nation was worse than them → ISRAEL 2Chron 33:9
34:13-20	<p>Time for Revenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob's sons contrived a revengeful plot to slay Shechem & all the men in the village. What would you have done? • v19. Shechem's love for Dinah seemed genuine, & he did not delay being circumcised. Would you have done this?
34:20-25	<p>The Things Men Do for Women and Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shechem talks his town into meeting the condition to be circumcised and to reap the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Swap daughters in marriage – sexual gain ♦ Acquire livestock and property – financial gain • The men of Shechem convinced themselves of a win-win situation with Jacob's sons following the rape of their sister, Dinah – No warning bells were going off that this trade sounded too good to be true
34:25-29	<p>Justice for a Rape: Kill all Men, Take Wealth & Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob's sons waited till their victims were at their weakest moment before attacking • They killed not only Shechem, who raped their sister, but they killed all the other men as well, they looted the town, and took the women and children for their own usage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Was their response appropriate or justified? ♦ Was there a better response to this situation?..Rom 12:19

Passage	Comments
34:30-31	<p>Path of Least Resistance Kills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob did not seek to correct the situation or to control his sons – so now his future is in jeopardy • His sons' excuse is not a call for justice, or a concern for Dinah, or concern for God's honor – but of pride
35:1-21	<p>Time to Clean House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gets involved and directs Jacob to move his family back to Bethel – a place of worship & to refocus priorities • v2. Time to clean house of all idols, to purify oneself inwardly and outwardly. How would we do this today? • v4. Earrings had some kind of idolatrous significance (some legalistic churches use this passage to justify no jewelry is to be worn) • v5. A great terror kept the sons of Jacob safe, which still keeps Israel somewhat safe today (hit me once, I hit 7x) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ "You bomb one of our cities, we blitz your country" • vv9-15. God once again confirms Jacob's name change to Israel and commands him to be "Fruitful and multiply" (same as for Adam and Noah). Should we be multiplying? • v18. "soul was departing" – an interesting concept of the soul (the real person) departs from the body • v21. Jacob relocates his family to Eder
35:8, 16-19, 27-29	<p>Three Funerals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deborah, Rebekah's nurse dies 2. Rachel dies while giving birth to Benjamin 3. Isaac dies at 180
35:22	<p>More Drama on the Home Front</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just when things couldn't get worse, son #1, Reuben, sleeps with his step-brothers' mother – Bilhah, who was one of his Dad's concubines (a secondary wife) • Again, Jacob does nothing but takes the path of least resistance. At the end of his life, Jacob does remove Reuben's right as the 1st born Gen 49:3-4
36:1-43	<p>Esau Lineage Will Haunt Israel for Generations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv6-7. Esau & Jacob go their separate ways because of their vast holdings • vv8-43. Esau's descendants – Edomites (included Herod) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Edom is a thorn to Israel from this time forward ♦ One day, Edom will be wiped off the map Ez 25:13
Ref. to Job 36:11,28	<p>Is There a Connection to the Book of Job?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v11. Eliphaz's son was Teman. Recall Eliphaz the Temanite in the book of Job.....Job 2:11 • v28. Dishan, son was Uz. Recall Job was of Uz.....Job 1:1

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- When in a tough, emotional situation where you or a loved one are victimized, consider the following:
 1. Seek godly counsel and pray for God's intervention
 2. Avoid making decisions based on emotions
 3. Avoid taking the law into your own hands
 4. Let God be the one to bring true justice in His time

NEXT WEEK:

Genesis 37. Joseph comes on the scene and actually consumes the rest of Genesis, about 30% of the book. In this chapter, Joseph is thrown into a pit by his brothers and ends up in Egypt as a slave for 13 years. Why does God put such trials on his favored servants?

