

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Trouble in the House of Israel

“Jacob’s Daughter is defiled”

Scripture text: Genesis Ch 34

You may have noticed how, up to this point, Jacob always **referred to the Lord as “the God of my father Isaac.”** He never once called him **“the Lord my God.”** But now, in the naming of this altar, he did so. He called it **“El-Elohe-Israel,”** which means **“God, the God of Israel.”**

His name was now Israel. And his God was now the Lord. Jacob finally began to worship the Lord.

Once you surrender your life to the Lord, if you have children, they don't always follow in your steps!

Your children may not want to change, may not see anything wrong with their character, so why should they follow your God?

Yet there is a reason they we should train up a child in they way they should go, that when they are older they will not depart form it!

Jacob has been a schemer, con–man, liar, looking out only for himself, until Almighty God got ahold of him.

His life changed ... was even given a new name, Israel (prince of God).

Yet the example that had been set for his children was not one that honored God, there was tension, jealousy, and strife within the family, as they strive to seek their father's favor.

Once Jacob settled in the land, **the threat from the Canaanites became a problem.** The story is a tangled bundle of good and evil, as are all the patriarchal narratives. To Israel this would certainly be a warning against the defiling effect of interrelations with Canaanites, **even by deception.** Israel was not supposed to intermarry with Canaan or make treaties with them. But the passage also warns against even going to visit the daughters of the land (v. 1).

Genesis 34:1-4 Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, **went out to see the women of the land.** And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, **saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her.** And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, **"Get me this girl for my wife."**

In Genesis 34:1–4. Dinah Jacob’s only daughter (30:21), **went out to visit the women of the land.** This action loosened a stone that caused a landslide. Jacob had made a commercial connection with Shechem (33:19), **but Dinah’s step toward social interaction had serious complications. Avoidance of the Canaanites would have been much safer.**

Shechem ... the ruler of that area, lay with her and **violated** (‘ānâh, “to afflict, oppress”), **that is, raped her.** After a woman was debased in this way, she had no expectancy **of ever having a valid marriage.**

Shechem, however, loved the girl and wanted her to be his wife.

Genesis 27:46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "**I loathe my life because of the Hittite women.** If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

Genesis 28:6-7 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "**You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women,**" and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or **what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, **"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Job 31:1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?"

2 Samuel 11:2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

Genesis 34:5-7 Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so **Jacob held his peace until they came.** And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. **The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.**

Jacob's response to Dinah's situation was most unusual. When he heard that she had been defiled (ṭimmē', "to pollute") **he kept quiet about it till his sons got home.** His sons, however, were incensed, for a disgraceful thing (lit., "folly," neḅālâh) had been done in Israel. **(This is the first mention of the nation by this name.)** Such a sexual evil was infamous, incriminating a whole community, something that should not be done. While the sons were filled with grief and fury, Jacob was passive and could not pull things together. Perhaps if Dinah were his daughter by Rachel rather than by Leah, he would have acted differently.

Ephesians 5:1-5 Therefore **be imitators of God, as beloved children.** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For **you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

Colossians 3:5-10 Put to death therefore what is **earthly in you**: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But **now you must put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **Do not lie to one another**, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have **put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

Hebrews 13:2-6 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. **Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**" So we can confidently say, "**The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?**"

Genesis 34:8-12 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, **"The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter.** Please give her to him to be his wife. Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it." Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. **Ask me for as great a bride price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me.** Only give me the young woman to be my wife."

The Canaanites approached with a proposal. Old Hamor, Shechem's father, made a diplomatic speech: great advantages would be gained by both sides from an agreement to intermarry (vv. 8–10). He movingly offered Israel the land (v. 10). But God, not the Canaanites, would give it. Hamor's later appeal to his fellow citizens **showed that he was deceptive all along, hoping only to take over Jacob's possessions (v. 23). No good would come to Israel from trusting the defiling Canaanites.** Shechem then offered to pay Jacob and Dinah's brothers whatever price for the bride they suggested, trying to buy his way out of trouble.

Ask me. On the practice of purchasing wives, De la Roque says, “Properly speaking, **a young man who would marry must purchase his wife; and fathers among the Arabs are never so happy as when they have many daughters.** They form part of the riches of a house. Accordingly, when a young man would treat with a person whose daughter he is inclined to marry, he says to him, ‘**Will you give me your daughter for fifty sheep, for six camels, or for a dozen cows?**’ according to the rank of her family, and the circumstances of him who desires to marry her.” **dowry.**

Exodus 22:16-17 "If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed and lies with her, **he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife.** If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, **he shall pay money equal to the bride-price for virgins.**

Deuteronomy 22:28-29 "If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found, **then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.**

Verses 13–24. **The brothers (not Jacob!)** refused such a treaty because, they said, Shechem was not circumcised, and intermarriage would be a disgrace (ḥerpâh, “a reproach, a scorn”). (These words—“not circumcised” [**this word in Heb. also suggests being impure**] and “a disgrace”—describe the Canaanites well.) So the brothers planned for Shechem’s outward conforming to circumcision, but of course this was not a true covenant. **They, like their father, dealt deceitfully** (v. 13). They apparently assumed that Shechem and Hamor would never consent to their males being circumcised as a condition for intermarriage. But 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.**

Genesis 34:13-16 The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. They said to them, "**We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us.** Only on this condition will we agree with you--**that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised.** Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and **become one people.**"

Genesis 34:20-23 So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, "**These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them.** Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters. Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people--when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. **Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours?** Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us."

In thus falling into this measure, the **Shechemites must either have had great affection for their chief and his son, or have been under the influence of the most passive obedience.** The petty princes of Asia have always been absolute and despotic; their subjects paying them the most prompt and blind obedience.

The following instance will sufficiently illustrate and confirm this statement: Abu Thaher, chief of the Carmathians, about the year 930, with only 500 horse, went to lay siege to Bagdad: the khalif's general marched out to seize him; but before the attack, sent an officer to summon him to surrender. 'How many men has the khalif's general?' said Abu Thaher; '30,000,' replied the officer. 'Among them all,' says the Carmathian chief, 'has he got three like mine?'

Then ordering his followers to approach, he commanded one to stab himself, another to throw himself from a precipice, and a third to plunge into the Tigris: **all three instantly obeyed, and perished!** Then turning to the officer, he said, **'He who has such troops need not value the number of his enemies!'**

***Wow!!!** Is our obedience to Jesus Christ similar to this, will you obey Him no matter what? Our enemies will obey their leader (Satan), which makes the fight all the more important!*

Verses 25–31. **The outworking of the plot was tragic.** Simeon and Levi (and no doubt their households) **slaughtered the Canaanite males** while they were in pain from the circumcision and still weak from healing. **The brothers then rescued Dinah and plundered the city and the fields for the Shechemites' property, livestock, wealth, and women and children.** This all struck fear into Jacob, for it could bring serious repercussions on him and his family. But the brothers simply replied, **Should Shechem have treated our sister like a prostitute?**

Later the nation of Israel was instructed to avoid defilement with the Canaanites. Israel's foreign policy was to destroy them completely before they could defile the Israelites.

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, **you shall save alive nothing that breathes, but you shall devote them to complete destruction,** the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, **as the LORD your God has commanded, that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.**