

## **THE COVENANT FAMILY CRISIS**

**Genesis 34:1-31**

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Although we cherish the good side of life's coin, on the flip side families have its share of headaches and hard times. Every household faces challenges from within and from without. Unfortunately, because of the dark side of human nature, life can abruptly unfold and throw a family into a crisis they don't see coming.

### **1. DINAH'S DESIRE – v. 1**

Dinah is now a young lady between the ages of 14 and 18. She's the only female among her 11 brothers. Dina decided to go out and experience the Canaanite, Hivite world. She wanted to go check things out, but she also wanted to be checked out.

Appl. Young people, you don't have to try out every desire that flows through your soul. Some desires and curiosities are better left unfulfilled, rather than experienced and regretted. **Romans 19:16b**

### **2. DINAH DEGRADED – v. 2**

Prince Shechem, a man of power, wealth and influence caught her eye and came on to her. Being at the point of no return, he abused his power and took her by force. This kind of behavior in our day and time should be reported immediately and punished to the fullest extent of the law and the victim is in need of counseling and time to heal.

### **3. SHECHEM'S PROPOSAL - vv. 3-4**

Shechem blamed his uncontrollable actions on the fact that he was deeply attracted to Dinah and really loved her (glossing over the violation). He talked to his father Hamor about setting things in motion for him to marry her.

### **4. JACOB'S PASSIVITY – vv. 5-6**

Instead of confronting both Shechem and Hamor, Jacob abdicated his responsibility as a father to intervene on behalf of his daughter, but decided to remain silent until his sons returned from the field.

Appl. There's nothing more shameful than a passive man who goes silent when he should speak up. Families have been plunged into unnecessary drama because the man wouldn't stand up, speak up, and turn things upside down until everyone around him and under him get things right.

**v. 6** - The audacity of Hamor to venture to go to Jacob to discuss marriage plans for Dinah with the man who violated her! Jacob acts as if he doesn't see the issue at hand!

### **5. JACOB'S SONS OUTRAGE – v. 7**

They rose to the challenge of addressing the issue because that disgraceful act grieved them, and they were extremely angry with Shechem and Hamor. Such a thing, the text says is something that should not have happened to begin with.

### **6. HAMOR & SHECHEM'S TREATY – vv. 8-12**

A fourfold treaty is being proposed by these two demented men 1) Give Dinah to Shechem 2) Let's have interracial marriages 3) Build your economic empire alongside of us 4) We will pay you what you want for Dinah.

As people of God we are to not intermingle in covenant relationships with people who are not of God, because they have a worldly value system that is always in competition with the kingdom of God; not to compliment the Kingdom, but complicate kingdom influence. **2 Cor. 6:17; 1 John 2:15-17**

### **7. JACOB'S SONS COUNTER-TREATY – vv. 13-17**

Jacob's 10 sons deceived them with this counter-offer encouraging them to become Israelites and embrace Jehovah God and show it by becoming circumcised as an outward sign of converting.

### **8. HAMOR & SHECHEM'S PROPOSAL – vv. 18-24**

Hamor and Shechem didn't know they were being deceived. It's because they were being deceptive to the sons of Jacob! They agreed to the terms in order to eventually take over everything Jacob had acquired. *Gen. 12:5-7*

### **9. SIMEON & LEVI'S REVENGE! – vv. 25-29**

Simeon and Levi had two goals in mind: rid the land of these heathen men and rescue their sister Dinah and bring her home. But was it necessary to commit mass murder for the sin of Shechem? God says, "Vengeance is Mine! None of the sons at this point had a relationship with God. *vv. 27-29*

### **10. JACOB'S FEARFUL DISTRESS! – vv. 30-31**

Jacob's faith in God waned and lapsed into the fear of being attacked when word got around to the surrounding nations of what just happened. Jacob once again, forgot about God's ability to protect him, keep him and prosper him.

His sons defended their actions in *v. 31*