

Genesis 34

Living as a Christian is harder than as an unbeliever. You have normal life hassles, plus you are now battling an unseen opponent who wants to silence you. Jacob is trying to reconnect with God in a bigger way, like his grandfather, Abraham. He just spent 20 years in seclusion for taking a stand for the family spiritual life. Now he is seeing how different outside cultures are than his own. Nobody is going to pave the path to holy living for him. It is always a battle.

Read Genesis 34:1-7: Jacob's daughter Dinah gets raped by the local Hivite prince. Shechem the son of Hamor asked for Dinah's hand in marriage. This unclean and degrading act on their sister infuriated her brothers.

Read Genesis 34:8-31 : Hamor asked Jacob to make a pact to let the children of both communities marry each other; and commence business transactions between the two people groups. Shechem offered a dowry to take Dinah as his wife. The sons of Jacob replied that all of these marital and business treaties could only be possible if every man in their city was circumcised.

Hamor and Shechem went to the men of the city to advocate that they all get circumcised. The secret plan of Hamor and Shechem was to gain their confidence and then take everything from Jacob's family.

Instead of Hamor fleecing Jacob, Jacob's sons Simeon and Levi killed every male in town. They attacked them while they were incapacitated from the circumcision. Dinah was even taken out of Shechem's house and he was killed. It was a bad thing that she was raped and married to an idolator. It was probably even worse that her brothers killed her now husband after they were married.

Jacob is upset over his out-of-control sons who have put the Hebrews in the cross hairs of every Canaanite now.