

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 24, 2023

GENESIS 34:25-31

INTRODUCTION:

1. In reference to Shechem, the Holy Spirit says that *“he was more honorable than all the household of his father”* (Gen. 34.19).
 - a) Honorable (nik-bad): Literally, “to weigh heavily upon, to be heavy, weighty.” Shechem was respected and influential. ESV – “he was the most honored” (cf. Gen. 34.4)
 - b) Being influential, he persuaded the city to agree to Israel’s condition. (Gen. 34.20,21)
2. The condition for allowing Shechem to marry Dinah was circumcision. (Gen. 34.15)
 - a) Circumcision was expected of all males among Abraham’s family. (Gen. 17.11-13)
 - b) Yet their conditions were not offered with honorable intentions. (Gen. 34.13).
3. After meeting the condition, Simeon and Levi were ready to exact revenge.

I. THE VIOLENCE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

- A. They slayed the men of the city.
 1. **GENESIS 34.25:** *“Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain.”*
 - a) Circumcision was painful and required time to heal. (Josh. 5.2,3,7,8)
 - b) This was the intention of Jacob’s sons. (Gen. 34.13)
 2. **GENESIS 34.25:** *“that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers”*
 - a) Leah had six sons and one daughter. (Gen. 29.33,34; 30.20,21)
 - b) Only Simeon and Levi initially slayed the men of Shechem. (Gen. 49.5-7)
 3. **GENESIS 34.25:** *“came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.”* Literally, they came when the men of the city were feeling confident. Their guard was down.
 4. **GENESIS 34.26:** They killed Hamor and Shechem and rescued Dinah.
- B. They plundered the city of Shechem.
 1. **GENESIS 34.27:** *“The sons of Jacob...plundered the city.”*
 2. **GENESIS 34.28,29:** They took their livestock, wealth, women, and children.

II. THE VENGEANCE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

- A. The children of Israel destroyed the city out of vengeance.
 1. Vengeance (Hebrew: naqam; Greek ekdikiseo): Literally, to carry out justice. To redeem one who has been wronged. Vindication. (Gen. 4.15)
 - a) Vengeance is different than “getting even.” (1 Pet. 2.18-24)
 - b) The word is used synonymously with “justice.” (Luke 18.1-8)
 2. **GENESIS 34.27:** *“because their sister had been defiled.”*
- B. APPLICATION: Is there ever a time when we can carry out justice on our own?
 1. God avenges Himself. Vengeance is always His prerogative. (Jer. 5.9)
 2. God does not allow us to avenge ourselves. (Rom. 12.17-21)
 3. The system of civil justice was established by God. (Rom. 13.4)
 - a) If one kills another accidentally, he is not deserving of death. (Deut. 19.6)
 - b) If one kills another intentionally, he is a murderer. (Num. 35.19-21)
 4. By avenging their sister, they potentially hurt the house of Jacob. (Gen. 34.30,31)
 - a) “Obnoxious” (baas): To stink towards. (cf. Ex. 5.21; 2 Sam. 12.14)
 - b) **GENESIS 34.31:** *“Should he treat our sister like a harlot?”*