

## Crisis in Canaan

### Genesis 34

#### *Genesis 34:1-4*

- 1 “went out to see the women of the land”- not a safe endeavor, but this is NOT a blame-the victim account  
2 Hivites- listed in Genesis 10’s Table of Nations, descendants of the cursed Canaan, son of Ham  
“seized her, lay with her and humiliated her”- sometimes called the “Rape” or “Defilement”  
3 “his soul was drawn to Dinah”- an unavoidable consequence of the sexual encounter  
“he loved the young woman”-  
“spoke tenderly to her”-  
4 “get me this girl for my wife”- God later forbids such a foreign marriage (Dt 7:1-5)

#### *Genesis 34:5-7*

- 5 “Jacob heard”- how and from whom we are not sure, perhaps Dinah herself  
“Jacob held his peace”- an idiom for “remained silent”  
7 “the men were indignant and very angry”- rightfully so, this is called “righteous anger”

#### *Genesis 34:8-12*

- 8 “Hamor spoke with them”- Jacob and his sons, Dinah may have been present too  
“please give her to him to be his wife”- the first stipulation of the attempted marriage contract  
9 “Make marriages with us”- the second condition is cultural assimilation with Israel  
10 “Dwell and trade... get property”- the intermarriage allows Israel to participate economically  
11 “Let me find *grace* in your eyes”- not likely, given there is no remorse for the outrageous deed  
12 “a great bride price”- Shechem cannot buy his way out of this one!

#### *Genesis 34:13-17*

- 13 “The sons of Jacob answered...deceitfully”- perhaps they considered themselves outnumbered  
“because he had defiled their sister Dinah”- this is not just xenophobia, it is jealousy for their sister  
14 The Front: “one who is uncircumcised”- What was circumcision and uncircumcision at this point?  
15-16 The Lie: Be circumcised and we’ll assimilate with you and give you Dinah

#### *Genesis 34:18-24*

- 19 “most honored of all his father’s house”- likely the firstborn, he also has the city named for him  
20 “gate of their city”- the place where official political business took place in ancient cities  
22 “become one people”- this is the direct opposite of God’s promise to Abraham  
24 Sounds like a pretty gullible crowd!

#### *Genesis 34:25-31*

- 25 “third day... sore”- surgery like this is most sore on the third day  
Simeon and Levi- Leah’s 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sons, this will be important later on! (Gen 49:5-7)  
“while it felt secure and killed all the males”- they gave less of a fight than the Trojan Horse!

# Back to Bethel- Blessed Again

## Genesis 35

### *Genesis 35:1-4*

- 1 Perhaps the previous altar had been torn down or in disrepair  
2 “Put away the foreign gods that are among you”- Who do we know had foreign gods?  
“Purify yourselves and change your garments”- bathing, sexual abstinence, repentance, and faith  
3 REVIEW: What does the name “Bethel” mean?  
4 “and the rings that were in their ears”- tokens of superstition and tribal gods

### *Genesis 35:5-15*

- 5 The terror kept the cities from retaliating for what Jacob’s sons did to the Shechemites  
7 “El-bethel”- means God of the House of God- twice God has revealed Himself to Jacob here  
8 “Allon-bacuth”- means “Oak of Weeping”  
10 Didn’t God already give Jacob the name Israel? Why this additional renaming?  
11 “I am God Almighty (*El Shaddai*): be fruitful and multiply”- he’s already got 12 kids!  
Nation, company of nations, kings shall come from Jacob – review Gen 28:3-4 and compare!  
14 Jacob sets up another pillar- like the huge Code of Hammurabi  
“drink offering...poured oil”- this is their early “consecration” ritual for setting it apart as sacred

### *Genesis 35:16-29*

- 18 Ben-oni- could mean “Son of My Sorrow” or “Son of My Strength”  
Benjamin- means “Son of the Right Hand”  
19-20 “pillar over her tomb... which is there to this day”- Literally, still to THIS day!  
<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/israel/bethlehem-rachels-tomb.htm>  
22 Reuben’s incest with Bilhah (Rachel’s concubine)- loses his birthright (Gen 49:3-4)  
27-29 Isaac lived many years after expecting to die in Gen 27, buried with parents and Rebekah

### Psalms 16- A Miktam of David

N: <sup>1</sup>Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.  
S: <sup>2</sup>I say to YHWH, "You are my Lord;  
N: I have no good apart from you."  
S: <sup>3</sup>As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,  
N: in whom is all my delight.  
S: <sup>4</sup>The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;  
N: their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
S: or take their names on my lips.  
N: <sup>5</sup>YHWH is my chosen portion and my cup;  
S: you hold my lot.  
N: <sup>6</sup>The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
S: indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.  
N: <sup>7</sup>I bless YHWH who gives me counsel;  
S: in the night also my heart instructs me.  
N: <sup>8</sup>I have set YHWH always before me;  
S: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.  
N: <sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

S: my flesh also dwells secure.  
N: <sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
S: or let your holy one see corruption.  
N: <sup>11</sup>You make known to me the path of life;  
S: in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
N: at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.  
**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning  
Is now and will be forever Amen**