

[The Dinah Incident](#)

**Genesis 34:18** And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

**Genesis 34:19** So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was more honorable than all the household of his father. 1

Meaning that the men agreed to such an excruciating surgery (vv. 24, 25) because they had so much respect for him and because they anticipated mercenary benefit (v. 23).<sup>1</sup>

**Genesis 34:20** And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying: :21 "These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters.

**Genesis 34:22** Only on this condition will the men consent to dwell with us, to be one people: if every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised.

**Genesis 34:23** Will not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us."

**Genesis 34:24** And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son; every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

**Genesis 34:25** Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.

**Genesis 34:26** And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out.

**Genesis 34:27** The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.

Simeon and Levi set in motion the barbarity of that day and attention validly falls upon them in the narrative (vv. 25, 30; cf. 49:5–7), but their brothers joined in the looting, thereby approving murder and mayhem as justifiable retribution for the destroyed honor of their sister (v. 31).

**Genesis 34:28** They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field, :29 and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses.

**Genesis 34:30** Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I."

Vengeance exacted meant retaliation expected. Total loss of respect ("making me odious") and of peaceful relations (v. 21) put both him and them in harm's way with survival being highly unlikely. This threat tested God's promise of safety, giving Jacob cause for great concern (28:15; 32:9, 12).

**Genesis 34:31** But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"

**Jacob Returns to Bethel**

**Genesis 35:1** Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

**Genesis 35:2** And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.

**Genesis 35:3** Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."

**Genesis 35:4** So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.

**Genesis 35:5** And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. :6 So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him.

**Genesis 35:7** And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother. :8 Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the terebinth tree. So the name of it was called Allon Bachuth.

### **God Blesses Jacob at Bethel**

**Genesis 35:9** Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him.

**Genesis 35:10** And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel.

**Genesis 35:11** Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. :12 The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

**Genesis 35:13** Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.

**Genesis 35:14** So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it. :15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.

### **Benjamin is Born**

**Genesis 35:16** Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor. 1

Ephrath. A more ancient name for Bethlehem. 1

**Genesis 35:17** Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also."

**Genesis 35:18** And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin. 1

**Ben-oni ... Benjamin.** The dying mother appropriately named her newly born son "Son of my sorrow," but the grieving father named him "Son of my right hand," thus assigning him a place of honor in the home. Her prayer at the birth of her firstborn was answered (30:24).1

**Genesis 35:19** So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

**Genesis 35:20** And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

**Genesis 35:21** Then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder. :22 And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: 1

The birth of Benjamin in Canaan (v. 18) furnished reason to simply review the sons born outside of Canaan, with only one sad note preceding it, i.e., the sin of Reuben, which tainted the qualifier "Jacob's firstborn" in the listing. 1

### **Jacob's Twelve Sons**