

**W030115a – 05/06/26**  
**Genesis 34-36, 38**  
**“The Life of Jacob-Part Three”**

**Introduction**

- Tonight we will continue our study of the Old Testament and the Book of Genesis, remember

**The word Genesis means “beginnings.”**

- And truly so many things in scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
  - The universe, life in general
  - Man, marriage
  - Sin and evil, Language, government, nations
  - And specifically, we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact, understanding what this book is about is the beginning is really a good way to divide up our look at this book

**Outline for the Book of Genesis**

**#1 – The Beginning of All Nations – Genesis 1-11**

**The Creation – Genesis 1-2**

**The Fall – Genesis 3-5**

**The Flood – Genesis 6-9**

**The Tables of Nations – Genesis 10-11**

**#2 – The Beginning of the Jewish Nation – Genesis 12-50**

**Abraham – Genesis 12-23**

**Isaac – Genesis 24-27**

**Jacob – Genesis 28-36**

**Joseph – Genesis 37-50**

- And tonight we will finish up our study of the life of Jacob. Jacob is going to be alive until the very last chapter of Genesis, but starting next time, the focus shifts from Jacob to his son Joseph and his story is amazing, so I am so excited to start that with you, but tonight we finish our main studies on the life of Jacob

**And we have seen Jacob go from being a heel catcher at birth, to stealing brother's birthright by deception**

- To being all alone, sleeping on a rock in the wilderness, meeting God
  - To being deceived himself by his father-in-law
- To now being the Father of the nation of Israel

**And tonight we are going to explore that family a little further by looking at, if you are taking notes tonight**

**Jacob's Family – Genesis 34-36,38**

**#1 – His Daughter – Genesis 34**

**#2 – His Wife and Father – Genesis 35**

**#3 – His Brother – Genesis 36**

**#4 – His Son – Genesis 38**

- And we will look at each of these sections briefly and see the outflow of Jacob's life effecting his family
  - But before we get to this section tonight we need to understand some background

**28 years before this event in Genesis 34, we find Jacob in a place he names Bethel**

- He meets God in a real and wonderful way

**But then spends 20 years wondering away**

- He gets married (four times)
  - He has 13 children
  - His 12 sons will become the 12 tribes of Israel
- God even blesses him financially

**But then God calls him to get out of the place his uncle Laban lives and calls him to return to Bethel, return to the place where he experienced the presence of God**

- and Jacob goes from Laban and Padamm Aram
  - but then stops short of Bethel
  - In fact he ends up in **Shechem (which is technically in the promise land), but 12 miles from Bethel – (show the map I sent you, then zoom in to Bethel and Shechem in the middle of the map with another slide**
- And Shechem is a place of real carnality and sin

**And though there will be grace – there are serious consequences to Jacob’s compromise – and they all involve his family**

- that is what we sometimes forget – our sin doesn’t just affect us – it effects our kids, and others
  - and we see the tragic effects of compromise in Jacob’s life through his family tonight
  - and we begin with his daughter – **let’s start reading in chapter 33 verse 17 for context tonight**

**Jacob’s Family – Genesis 34-36,38**

**#1 – His Daughter – Genesis 34**

- Jacob falls short of what God calls him to do, instead of moving to Bethel, which means - “the house of God”
  - He moves to Shechem, this place of compromise and sin

**And the first evidence that this is true, we see in his daughter Dinah**

- she wants to go out, she wants to see and be seen
  - and we understand this, this is part of our cultural as well, but it was not right
- In that culture, everything we have indicates, girls of marriageable age were not permitted to leave the tents of their people without a chaperone.

**In Hebrew, the phrase “went out” bears a sense of impropriety.**

- Now the NKJV version of the Bible says that as she was out and about the prince of Shechem....

**“violated her.” – Genesis 34:2 NKJV**

- The KJV says he

**“defiled her.” – Genesis 34:2 - KJV**

- The ESV says he

**“humiliated her.” – Genesis 34:2 – ESV**

- The NIV and the NLT says he

**“raped her.” – Genesis 34:2 – NIV and NLT**

**But what I want you to see is there is no consensus among English translations of what happened to her and that is because the Hebrew word is not clear**

➤ **The Hebrew word translated as “violated” in our English NKJV, is the Hebrew word “Anah.”**

- And it means just as the various English translations say...

**“Anah” – “to violate, defile, or to humble.”**

➤ And it may be that she was raped, it absolutely could be that

- But I just want to point something out to you serious Bible students tonight, this word “anah” is the same word used to describe the act of fornication, sex before or outside of marriage in the Old Testament – Deuteronomy 22 is one example...

**“If a man finds a young woman *who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and lies with her...then the man who lay with her shall give to the young woman’s father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife because he has humbled her; he shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days.*” – Deuteronomy 22:28-29**

- God’s law in Deuteronomy says “if you decide to be intimate with a girl before marriage, well then you need to pay her Dad money and marry her”
- Young men your flesh will cost you money and then more money
  - And I just smile at that because the Lord knows how to reach young men, that is all I am saying...

**But in describing sex before marriage, Moses, same author as Genesis uses the Hebrew word “anah”**

- Now again the Hebrew word can absolutely speak of rape, and obviously in no way am I trying to diminish the seriousness of that crime, but this whole story could also be referring to sex outside of the covenant of marriage, that these two young people just hooked up

**And the reaction from the brothers is because in that culture and Biblically, it was scandalous that a young man would do that to a young woman before marriage**

- I know in our culture, it seems to be no big deal
  - But it was in that culture and really it still should be in ours as well
  - And the reason this is important to know is we need to understand the seriousness of fornication in the eyes of the Lord

**I am not in any way saying that God says fornication is the same thing as rape**

- For in the old testament if you raped a woman you were put to death, the penalty for rape was death
  - And as we just read from Deuteronomy if you had sex with a woman before marriage the punishment was you owed her Dad money and you had to marry her
  - Two very different consequences, because they are two very different things in the eyes of the Lord – please don't misunderstand me

**But what I want you to see because in our day and age, sex before marriage is glorified in TV and movies and music, we tend to think oh fornication is just what kids do, it is just what unmarried people do, it is not a big deal**

- Precious church – yes it is, in the eyes of the Lord
  - For God sees it as an “Anah” – something that violates and defiles

**It is important for us to understand this in the text because it helps us see how serious fornication is to the Lord, but also because as many people have already emailed me as you have read ahead**

- How in the world can the Bible say in verse 19 when the sons of Jacob begin to trick the men of Shechem by getting them to be circumcised so they could kill them while they were in pain, how could bible say of the prince of Shechem

**“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.” – Genesis 34:19**

- How can the Bible say he was honorable and delighted in her when he raped her?
  - And that is a good question and the answer might be and I stress might be, that Shechem didn’t rape her as it is translated in the NLT or NIV but instead they had consensual premarital sex which the Bible calls “defiling”

**And if that is true, I want you to see that that act was enough for the Bible to say she was defiled, violated**

- This act, whatever it was, was enough for the brothers to rise up and eventually commit mass murder in the town

**But no matter what happened in town that day, the question I want to know is where is Dad?**

- Where is he to discourage or not let her go into town?
  - Where is Dad to do all he can to keep his daughter from this?

**You see Dad’s you have an important role, your daughters don’t know boys, you do**

- they think they know boys and how they operate
  - they say things to you like, you don’t even know him Dad
  - listen – “I know him, he is boy, if you have met one and been one, you know them – kind of one size all for males”
- She doesn’t know boys
  - And girls, if you have a dad that is running interference for you, you may think that is worse thing in the world – but I praise God for your Dad
  - And if you don’t have a Dad, then you need to be wise

**Dinah wants the world, she wants to have friends**

- her brothers have each other

**But she is alone – and wanting friends, wanting to be part of what they were about.**

- So she goes to Shechem, this wicked and worldly carnal town, and starts to mingle with the sisters of the city

**But while she is there, this man Shechem, from the city of Shechem, meaning he is the prince, (the good-looking prince girls), comes to her and either rapes her or they decide to have sex**

- Either way, the Bible is clear, Dinah was defiled

**And as we read in the rest of the chapter, they actually have her, basically captive in their house - And then, this young man comes with a marriage proposal**

- in fact, it is interesting to me and it leads to me to have the opinion that what Genesis 34 is describing is not rape but consensual premarital sex is because Shechem in verses 11-12 offers Jacob whatever amount of dowery he wants to ask for, for the hand of his daughter

**You see we know culturally that before the law of God was given, the punishment for rape was death, but the punishment for premarital sex was the dad of the girl could require whatever he wanted as far as the size of the dowery**

- when the law was given, the penalty for rape was still death but in the verses we read a few moments ago, God limited the payment Dad could require in the case of premarital sex to fifty shekels
  - this story in Genesis 34 is before the law and so the fact that this young man is offering whatever the dad wants as far as a dowery size, instead of running for his life because remember the penalty for rape was death
  - I see the reason he is offering unlimited money and not his head, it because this was consensual and not rape
- But that is just my sorted opinion

**Shechem offers unlimited money and he offers a family merger – you marry our girls, we will marry your girls**

- it will be great for you, you can go anywhere in the land – let's do this

**And Jacob is just silent, he is not taking any leadership in this – but then the brothers show up – the young prince Shechem obviously doesn't realize Dinah has 11 redneck brothers that are fresh off the farm and they are not happy – Jacob isn't leading, so they will**

- and men this is truth we need to hear
  - if you will not lead your family, like Jacob seems like he is struggling to do, then someone will fill that leadership gap
  - it might be your wife, it might be your kids or scarier yet, it maybe someone outside your family

**The brothers take charge and say – we would love to combine families, but there is this little issue, first you need to get circumcised – we can't have your uncircumcised men marrying our girls**

- circumcision was the covenant symbol of Israel
  - it is the equivalent today of saying, oh you need to get saved before we can get married
  - and of course, Dinah's brothers had ulterior motives for suggesting this – for they were not planning on intermarrying with these guys, they were planning on killing these men not bringing them into the family
- But I think it is profound that the men of Shechem go along with this - This is a big deal to agree with - "They want us to do what?" - these grown men must have said

**But the King and his son say, listen guys, just do this and you get to have a beautiful girl and some money**

- and I find it so amazing what guys will do to get a girl, to get some money

**That is why you must be careful ladies, you say, “Oh I don’t date non-Christians”, and then the guy says back, well lucky for you, where do I sign up, I am suddenly very interested in church – oh be careful ladies**

- these men were willing to be circumcised in order to get a beautiful girl and some money
  - you think your guy won’t go to church, won’t sit through some of my boring services? – you are kidding yourself!

**These men of Shechem go along with this, but then on the third day, the worst day of the pain, when these men couldn’t really move, Simeon and Levi, come to this town**

- which most scholars believe would have had at least 200 men, and so it was probably Simeon, Levi and their sons as well and these two tribes kill them all, then take their wives and their stuff and their kids as their own

**It’s horrible, it’s genocide, it is going far beyond what the Law would eventually say, taking an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth**

- those laws were given by God not to say, well you poked my eye out, so I need your eye
  - it was about limiting the retribution – it was limiting what we see here – going way above and beyond what was done to them
- What our flesh wants to do, what we want to do when someone has done something to us, is we want to destroy them, we want to take it to a whole other level - That is normal and that is what the brothers are doing
  - The prince of this town, many believe raped Dinah and if he did that, that meant he deserved to die but instead all the men of Shechem died, these boy’s punishment is far above what the law of God required

**Genesis 34-36,38 – Jacob’s Family  
#1 – His Daughter – Genesis 34**

## #2 – His Wife and Father– Genesis 35

- Revival sometimes follows dark circumstances
  - as we get to chapter 35 Jacob has been facing some hard circumstances in his life
  - but before we begin to feel bad for him, remember we need to see that these hard circumstances were a result of some heavy choices Jacob had made

**God told Jacob “you need to get out of the land of Uncle Laban and come to Bethel – but the text says “Jacob journeyed to Succoth and there built himself a house...”**

- Jacob, who was supposed to go to Bethel, where he had once met the Lord, instead goes to Succoth, and then Shechem
  - And more than that – Jacob who like his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac, was supposed to dwell in tents (showing they were just passing through) is here building a house or taking up residence

**And maybe you think “What is the big deal? Why are you going into all this detail about insignificant things?”**

- the reason is these things are not insignificant
  - you see Succoth and Shechem were towns known for their carnality and sinfulness
  - the Las Vegas of Jacob’s day and age – sorry those of you from there.... But that is the equivalent today

**And here is Jacob, who is called to Bethel, the place he met God**

- and instead he is settling in Shechem, a place of wickedness and sin
  - And just as there were devastating effects upon Lot and especially his family, so will be the result of Jacob’s lack of discretion

**By the time we get here to chapter 35 – there is tension in Jacob’s home, murder on the part of his sons, his daughter has been defiled**

- all tied to Jacob’s decision to settle in Shechem

## **And yet then the Lord speaks to him in verse one of chapter 35**

- Not - “Jacob you have failed, what a loser... - no
  - Not “Jacob I am done using you, I’m picking a new father of my people.... No

## **The God of all grace and mercy, the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same in the New Testament and the same in the Old says...**

- “Jacob, arise, go to Bethel and dwell there
  - Jacob go to the place where we first met, where you first felt my presence and stay there Jacob, abide there, dwell in Bethel

## **And Jacob responds verse 2, “were going, family put away those foreign Gods, let’s get pure, let’s go to Bethel**

- And I know we covered this section on Sunday, but just see some effects of obedience in Jacob’s life

### **5 Effects of Obedience**

#### **#1 – Revival in his family**

- His kids, his wives, who were evidently involved in this worship of foreign gods, they hand them over – we are through with this stuff

#### **#2 – Reconciliation of the family**

- where just moments earlier we read in the end of chapter 34, a mutiny ready to break out between Jacob and his boys. “Why won’t Dad defend Dinah who had been defiled?”
  - Now there is revival and reconciliation in his family

#### **#3 – Worship in the heart**

- Next there is worship again in Jacob’s heart
  - oh 20 years before He had met the Lord, and poured out his heart and life before him

## **But there had been a dryness in Jacob’s life, during this time**

- But now he is back in Bethel – and worship becomes vibrant again - Revival, reconciliation, worship and...

#### **#4 – The Word of God returning to Jacob**

- God is speaking to him again, revealing Himself to Jacob
  - Giving him promises and blessings
- Revival, reconciliation in the home, Worship in his heart
  - The Word of God to his ears and finally..

#### **#5 – Growth in Jacob's life**

- Jacob after worshipping and receiving the word of God, renames Bethel,

#### **“El Bethel” = The God of the House of God**

- Jacob goes from just knowing God was in that place to knowing the God of that place, personally, deeply

#### **Jacob, after much defeat, after watching his family devastated, ripped apart. after experiencing dryness in his own life**

- after all of that, Jacob obeys and goes back to Bethel, to the house of God
  - and He watches revival happen in his house
  - And worship back in his heart
  - And the Word of God spoken to his ears
  - Growth again in his life

#### **Yet all of this is what makes verse 17 of chapter 35 amazingly sad to me when it says “Then they journey away from Bethel...”**

- Jacob – what are you doing???
  - God said to dwell to stay, to hang out in Bethel
  - What are you doing????

#### **But Jacob leaves and sadly the consequences are devastating**

- The next passage we read is Rachel travailing in labor, and then her death, and in the next passage we read about the death of his father Isaac
  - Now whether or not this would have happened in Bethel, we cannot say for certain
- But it is interesting to me that Jacob is told to dwell, to stay in Bethel and when he leaves, problems follow

### **But why did he leave????**

- there is only one indication in our text, and if you don't read carefully, you could even miss it
  - We read in verse 8 that while in Bethel, Deborah, Rebekah's nurse died. – so what???
- In those times and culture, Rebekah being Jacob's mom, her nurse would have had a huge part in the responsibility of raising Jacob

### **There would have been a tremendous emotional attachment to Deborah on Jacob's part. He buries her under what is translated, "The tree of mourning"**

- it seems to be that this emotional disappointment, this circumstantial set back, caused Jacob to leave the place God had called him to stay at

### **Jacob's grandpa Abraham also left Bethel, do any of you remember his reasoning?**

- there was famine in the land

### **So you see the picture**

- Grandpa leaves for financial reasons

### **Jacob leaves for emotional reason**

- And yet with both cases, trouble and pain follows this decision to leave Bethel

### **Now why I am focusing so much on this?**

- the reason is there is a great lesson for us in this
  - because you and I are called to abide in the vine

### **In John chapter 15 – Jesus makes the point I am the vine you are the branches – without the vine we can do nothing – so we must, we are called to abide, to dwell, to hang out and stay with the Lord**

- For many of us that translates to staying plugged in to God's word and the Bethel, the house of God, He has called us to be a part of

### **But even though we know this, there is always the temptation to not abide, to not hang out, to not be plugged into the house of God**

**For some of us we do for a time, for a season, but then, we go into season of not seeing the importance and the value**

- and why we do it is similar to Abraham and Jacob
  - We are told to abide, but then problems arise in our lives

**Sometimes they are financial problems**

- sometimes they are emotional problems
  - But we are at Bethel and we wonder why these things happen to us when we are going for it with the Lord
  - So we drop out, we give in, we leave the House of God, Bethel

**But friends I need you to see this – for those of us who are tempted to walk this path**

- the road for Abraham and Jacob as they left Bethel was anything but easy
  - in fact more than just being hard, it was followed by tremendous sin

**Where do you find yourself tonight? – Shechem?, debating leaving Bethel? – Don't do it - Abide in Bethel – hang out in Bethel – hang out where God wants you to be**

- the reality is it was only 12 miles from where He was before
  - and the difference between us flourishing in our relationship with the Lord, and failure is often not that great - little decisions, little priority shift - huge ramifications
  - well let's move on

**Genesis 34-36,38 – Jacob's Family**

**#1 – His Daughter – Genesis 34**

**#2 – His Wife and Father – Genesis 35**

**#3 – His Brother – Genesis 36**

- Don't read – now as you can see Genesis 36 is a genealogy, and not just anyone's genealogy, it is Esau's genealogy

**God gives us the history of Esau for a chapter but then lets it go because remember the purpose of the Old Testament is to show us how we get to Jesus**

- So Esau is followed for a chapter and we get the story of where the Amalekites and the Edomites come from, who will be fighting the 12 sons of Israel for years to come
  - So we get their story and notice verse 2 - I find it interesting one of the names of Esau's many wives is Aholibamah – not important, just funny
- Now something that is interesting to note in this genealogy in verse 11 one of Esau's sons is Eliphaz and he was from Temna – in the book of Job, one of Job's counselors was Eliphaz the Temanite and so many Bible scholars believe these guys are one in the same, dating the book of Job about the time of Jacob, and Joseph

**In fact in verse 33 we read of a ruler by the name of Jobab and from what we know about Job from the book of Job is that he was wealthy and powerful – so some bible scholars think this guy could be one in the same - If that was true then Eliphaz would have been Job's uncle coming to advise him in his trouble**

- We can't be certain about that, but I love things like this that kind of tie the rest of the Bible together
  - Most Bible scholars believe this is around the time frame of the life of Job
  - But in Genesis 36 we get the story of Esau and then we move on back to the children of Israel heading to Jesus

**Now we will get into chapter 37 next as we look at the last section of this book – The Life of Joseph**

- but chapter 38 is just a little story on its own that shows us more of the background of Jesus family tree
  - now you think that would mean a good story is about to follow, but let's read it quickly together and I will make a few closing comments and then we can close in some worship so your minds can be cleansed from the disgusting stuff in Genesis 38...

## **Genesis 34-36,38 – Jacob’s Family**

**#1 – His Daughter – Genesis 34**

**#2 – His Wife and Father– Genesis 35**

**#3 – His Brother – Genesis 36**

**#4 – His Son – Genesis 38**

- We have in these verses the sad picture taking form
  - Judah, a son of Jacob
  - Leaves his homeland, and marries this pagan girl

### **And his kids are incredibly wicked also**

- His two first born, Er and Onan, were so wicked God kills them and we don’t know why God killed Er, but Onan...

### **The reason had to do with a law at the time, that if the older brother died before having kids, the younger was to father one in his place**

- This would mean you would be the father of someone who had more honor than yourself
  - And Onan wouldn’t do it, so he was killed.

### **Some people us this passage to preach against birth control**

- But that isn’t the issue at all – Onan is using Tamar for physical pleasure but has no desire to do what God wanted him to do – that is what is really going on

### **When it comes to birth control, my opinion is “When the Bible is silent, we can lean on Romans chapter 14 where we are exhorted to be fully convince in your own mind”**

- my opinion, God stopped creating after six days, not because He couldn’t create anymore, but because He decided to stop

So personally I’m okay with birth control as long as you understand there are types that prevent pregnancy and types that destroy life – I don’t think it is ever okay to destroy life – just my opinion, be fully convinced in your own mind and by the scripture or if you disagree you can email me Pastor Jessat my name

[Jesse@calvaryvista.com](mailto:Jesse@calvaryvista.com)

## **Well back to our text - The picture gets darker**

- Because Tamar knows she is never going to get the third son, she pulls this plot
  - Judah's wife is now dead and he is comforting himself by sheering sheep, because I guess that is what you do when you are sad, I don't know
- Tamar knows Judah is never going to give her his son Shelah as husband and she doesn't know if she wants a husband named Shelah anyway, just kidding

## **So she puts on the garments of a prostitute and sits out where Judah will see her and he asks to use her, and what does it cost?**

- Notice, so important, she asks for possessions – the cord (like bracelets), - his position, the staff – and his very person, the ring.
  - He gives these to her thinking he will get them back.

## **But notice this men and women, this is sin, and it always behaves the same**

- You think you can handle the price, but it will end up taking your possessions, your position and even your very person.

When I was a little kid, we didn't have veggie tales, there were two major Christian kid/s programs. One was Psalty the singing songbook, but another was by Jimmy Swagert. And I loved it. Jimmy Swagert is a man gifted by God to preach. And yet this man let pornography which led to his encounter not once but twice with a prostitute right out in the Coachella valley, where I used to pastor, in fact the last gal was related to someone in our church and as most of you know when it comes to Jimmy Swagert his ministry was taken away, his position was ruined and his very person, a name that used to gather respect, now is the butt of jokes.

**Sin always behaves this way with you. - Judah finds out Tamar is pregnant, and he wants her burned – what hypocrisy!!!**

## **She must die**

- And that is the command until she says, okay, but this is whose child it is? Does this staff look familiar, what about this bracelet, how about the big J on this ring here, what does that stand for Judah?

## **And Judah has to concede, you have been more righteousness than me and Tamar has the twins.**

- Perez and Zerah
  - And when we read the genealogy of King David, King Solomon, and more importantly Jesus Christ
  - Their lineage is from Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Judah, through this act with Tamar, to Perez and so on and so on

## **The Conclusion is...**

- David, Solomon and more importantly – Jesus Christ came from normal, sordid, sinful people
  - Your dysfunctional family cannot be an excuse to why you do the things you do
  - Christ came to identify with us
- And He, Jesus has a crazy background just like you, He has weird uncles just like you
  - So the question the Lord has for us, is what are you going to be like from this day forward?
- He didn't say to Jacob – Jacob, you loser, He says, arise and go to Bethel – and this time stay there!
  - God word for Jacob and a great word for us as well
  - Amen? Amen!