

Dinah was Raped by Shechem

34: 1-31

Dinah was the daughter of **Leah**, and therefore, a member of the less appreciated portion of Laban's family. **Jacob** had never loved **Leah** as much as he did Rachel (29:30), and eventually **he** favored Rachel's children, Joseph and Benjamin, more than those of **Leah**. Such favoritism had plagued the family since the days when Isaac favored Esau and Rebekah favored **Jacob**, and preferential treatment would continue to be the source of considerable trouble throughout the rest of **Genesis**.

In addition, the hazards of intermarriage with the pagan Canaanites are always an issue in **Genesis**. Abraham had been concerned that Isaac might marry outside the patriarchal family, like Ishmael had (21:21, 24:3-4), and Esau had disappointed his parents with marriages to unbelieving Hittites (26:34-35, 27:46, 28:8). The danger of **Jacob's** prolonged stay at **Shechem**, so near to **his** ultimate destination of Bethel, was not very wise.

Bad things can happen to anyone. Even good people are victimized or affected by disaster. But how people respond to the difficulty exposes their true character. Unfortunately **Jacob's** response revealed indifference toward **Dinah**, and **his** leadership as the head of the family was missing in action.⁵¹⁸ By not going to Bethel as **ADONAI** had commanded, **Ya'akov** was endangering others far more vulnerable than himself.⁵¹⁹ It is no accident that the name of **God** is completely absent from this section.