

In The Beginning

Israel begins to settle in the land

Jacob meets with Esau... Gen.33

How does Jacob modify his original plan to approach Esau? vs.1-3 Comment??

He originally planned to be in the rear. Now he leads his family, vs.3 Now he's trusting...

Though obviously more confident, how does he approach Esau? vs.3 Response? vs.4

He is humble before Esau. And there is no anger left in Esau. A peaceful reunion.

Esau initially refuses Jacob's gifts, but why does Jacob insist? vs.10 What does he now know?

He sees Esau's joyous face as though seeing God. He knows this can only be of the Lord.

What does Esau offer to Jacob? vs.12,15 And Jacob's response? 13-15 See 36:6-9

Esau, the warrior, offers to escort Jacob, but Jacob graciously declines. Note destinations.

What does Jacob do when he arrives at Shechem? vs.18-20

He buys some land and builds an altar to "El is the God of Israel". Note new name.

The tragedy of Dinah, Jacob's only daughter... Gen.34

Comment on Jacob's actions after Dinah is raped by Shechem. 24:1-5

After this horrible crime he waits for his sons to come in from the fields. No leadership.

What is the reaction of "Israel"? (note first use of national term) vs.7

They were grieved and very angry, but still no leadership evidenced by Jacob.

What does Shechem's father suggest? vs.8-12 Comment?

Let them marry. We should intermarry! God is NOT going to acquire the Land that way!

Jacob seems to turn this all over to his sons. What is their plan and intent? vs.13-17

They (deceitfully) agree to intermarriage if they submit to circumcision. Whole town.

What is the wholly ungodly principle involved here?

Keeping the outward 'signs' of faith does not make one Godly. Church, baptism, etc...

And how does Shechem respond? city? Why?

Quickly agrees and persuades the whole city to do so for the sake of gaining Jacob's wealth

And what is the horrible conclusion? vs.24-29

Simeon and Levi murder all the men in the city. All sons loot and pillage the city.

What was Jacob's response to all this? vs.30-31 What may Jacob have feared??

He rebuked Simeon and Levi. Would this horrendous crime cancel God's promises?

How is the impact on how unbelievers see Jacob (and his God) still relevant? vs.30; Phil.2:15

Caused to stink. Those who name the name of Christ must be above reproach...