

Genesis: God and the Originals

DINAH AND THE SHECHEMITES

Dinah out Meeting the Neighbors (34:1-4)

Vv. 1-4

1. Some years have passed (since Genesis 33, particularly v.18-20). How old do you think Dinah is at this time, and how old are her brothers?
2. Genesis uses 7 verbs in v. 2-3 to describe Shechem's action – he saw, he got (*laqah*), he slept (*saqab*), he overwhelmed (*ana piel*), he was attached, he loved, he encouraged. What does all this mean?
3. What does Shechem want his father (Hamor) to do in v. 4?

Vv. 5-7

4. What does Jacob do/how does he react (v. 5)?
5. What is the brothers' reaction (v.7)? What is the key factor in their feelings?

BONUS: What cultural issues are at odds between the Israelites and the Shechemites?

Vv. 8-12

6. Hamor and Shechem propose: "Let's make a deal!" How does Shechem's love (or attraction to *hasaq*) in v. 8 and v. 12 go over with the brothers?
7. They will "intermarry and intermingle". Unconsciously, Hamor proposes exactly a relationship that will count as defilement. What does Deuteronomy 7:1-4 say?

The Turning Point (34:13-19)

8. The price will be much higher than he (Hamor) imagined and will eventually be far greater than he dreams. Who does the price come from and why is the reply deceitful (v. 13)? Why isn't Jacob involved?

9. What is the “one condition?” What are the brothers’ counterthreats?
10. Hamor stresses the economic advantages of intermarriage; the brothers emphasize the religious impediments. Where else in Scripture do we find similar issues?

BONUS: So, circumcision would solve the problem. Shechem is just a boy in love; he’ll pay any price. What have he and his father done with regard to their community?

Vv. 20-24

11. How do Hamor and Shechem meet/convince the men of the village to go along?

Vv. 25-29

12. How are Simeon and Levi related to Dinah? Where was Dinah these past few days?
13. Why was the attack on the third day? Who else joins in with the looting and plundering? What is seized?

Vv. 30-31

14. What does Jacob say now, and what does he say later (Genesis 49:5-7)?
15. What different attitudes do Jacob (as opposed to) Simeon & Levi take at the end of this chapter?

BONUS: How does Jacob’s comment and the brothers’ question/answer raise issues that will be taken further in Genesis and in the Torah more broadly?

How does this chapter (and following episodes) affect Reuben (Genesis 35:22 and 49:3-4), Simeon, Levi (49:5-7), and Judah (49:8-12), the four oldest sons of Jacob?