

Theme: THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SCHECHEMITES

Memory Verse: *Genesis 34:25-26* “And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males. And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out”.

Texts: Genesis 34:24-31; 49:5-7; 2 Samuel 13:23-29

The Shechemites were excited about the prospect of getting the wealth of Jacob and his sons, and so agreed to do what Jacob and his sons required of them. Every male was quickly circumcised — a practice that was totally alien to them. They have never known of it before and do not know how it goes. Their greed and deception was to cost them their lives. Many people get into strange practices because they want power, marriage, wealth, children or success. They get into things that they do not know, nor understand, and in the process, lose their peace and life. Unfortunately, believers also fall prey to such snares.

Shall the blood of all the males of Shechem atone for the sins of their prince and of careless, curious Dinah? The demands of moral law would hardly answer any of these questions in the affirmative. But the actions of Simeon and Levi are not excusable. They had no right to take the lives of all the men in a community because of the foolishness of a careless, curious sister. They were guilty of extreme cruelty, fierce anger and murder. This made Jacob their father to curse their anger in later years (Genesis 49:57).

Believers cannot act like the sons of Jacob. No matter how grievous the offence against us, we are commanded to forgive and to leave vengeance to God. Gracious forgiveness, not wicked retaliation, is what marks us out as children of God (Matthew 5:38,39). Can we excuse Jacob in all of this really? Jacob said nothing all the while until his sons came from the field. And in all the negotiations and scheming he was quiet. He only protested after the revenge was concluded. His reaction was more of a complaint about possible reprisals from the neighbours. It is clear that Jacob had no strong control over his children and his household. What God said concerning Abraham and his household, He could not say concerning Jacob (Genesis 18:19).

	DAILY BIBLE READING	
	MORNING	EVENING
SUNDAY	Ezekiel 22	Ezekiel 23
MONDAY	Ezekiel 24	Ezekiel 25
TUESDAY	Ezekiel 26	Ezekiel 27
WEDNESDAY	Ezekiel 28	Ezekiel 29
THURSDAY	Ezekiel 30	Ezekiel 31
FRIDAY	Ezekiel 32	Ezekiel 33
SATURDAY	Ezekiel 34	Ezekiel 35