

# Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 10 am

## Dad, take charge!

Parenting lessons from Genesis 34:1-33

based on 23\_05\_14 and 06\_06\_11.doc

Welcome to all

Opening Scripture.....

Hymn MP 559 Praise Him, Praise Him

Scripture Psalm 146 (page 632)

Prayer

Children's talk ShuTing

Chorus MP 128 Father God I wonder

Notices Invite for Cameo, Thursdays, Bring and share lunch next Sunday.

BBQ, picnics, giving packets.

Welcome churches Fatemeh Taheri

Prayer and Lord's prayer

Readings Genesis 34:1-33 (page 37)

Hymn MP 1100 Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Sermon *Dad, take charge!*

Hymn MP 143 Fight the good fight 1:58 (Kevin Mayhew NONP)

Closing Prayer:

Fatemeh



Re\_ KNBC  
Birmingham visit.ms

## Prayer and Exordium

■ Has there been an episode in your life which you look back to with regret? Yes I'm sure, there certainly has for me. That dark day or that dark time. Gen 34 tells of one of those times.

Gen 34 recounts the rape of Dinah and you may well be thinking "I'll need to hang on to my chair here! "There's 18 certificate films is this going to be an '18 cert.' sermon? No. it's a 'U' Quite safe! no parental guidance needed here.

Yes it certainly was a dark day for Dinah, but the passage is not about her. Is it about her brothers Simeon and Levi? yes, but really it is about Jacob. x2

10 Chapters of Genesis are given over to Jacob. The Lord clearly wants to teach us something from his life, and there are important lessons here. In Gen 34 we learn a little about Dinah, but much about her father Jacob. It is about how to be a good Dad, not a bad Dad. How not to mess up and crash the kids!

We all have, or have had, a dad. Maybe you are a dad, or grandad, or maybe you married to someone who is a dad or grandad.

■ A lady in the church a few years ago said to me "that house-group on marriage doesn't apply to me as I am single. Was she right? ? No.

Heb 13:4 **Marriage should be honoured by all**, x2 that's everyone – that's you. **All Scripture is God breathed and useful for training in righteousness...** So too this morning, whoever you are, this passage is for you. *Dad, take charge!* x2

Prior to this event Jacob has split with Laban. Now that fearful meeting with Esau is behind him and he's come to live near the town of Shechem.

v.1 **Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had born to Jacob, went out to visit the women of the land.** Gen. 34:1

Dinah was brought up in Jacob's household, the household of faith, Jacob was God's man and Jacob's family God's family. They were the Lord's chosen Holy people, God had made promises to them, and they in turn were to walk blamelessly before Him. Hadn't Dinah been taught to look to the One True God of holiness? Hadn't she been told to shun the immoral practices of the Canaanite nations all around with their different gods and different standards?

Now in a new place Dinah's sense of adventure and her wandering spirit get the better of her. Why did she go out to visit these women? Was she restless? Was it curiosity? Did she want a change of scene, was being cooped up with the family getting too much? Had she become discontent?

Why was she so intrigued to see the lives of these unbelievers? What were the women like? What of the men? Did she go to look - or be looked at?

✚ Josephus, the Jewish historian, suggests she went to a Canaanite annual festival of nature. Do you love to look in on what the world is doing?

And as she set off what prompted her to go alone? Was it so her father Jacob wouldn't know? - Or was he fine about it? How could her father allow a young teenager to wander off into a pagan city with a reputation for low morals? Alone and vulnerable she's heading for danger. With all the complexities of the teenage temperament she – he - needed to be extra careful!

Dad, it seemed, had a loose grip on things. Let go of the wheel and it won't be long before you're off the road. Here's an accident waiting to happen.

It looks like her father's teaching on these important subjects had been scanty at best. Well intentioned parents had left a lot to chance.

Dinah's brothers were out working in the fields. What was she doing? Was she idling her time? Being given good things to be doing would leave less scope for wanderings. Titus says that **younger women** should be **busy at home** x2 not a popular thought these days - but wise. The devil finds work for idle hands, - 'A hands off' approach is disastrous!

Dinah was easy prey, She was observed by the son of a ruler and raped. Shechem was not a God fearer and took advantage of an opportunity walking his way, probably not by force as much as by surprise.

✚ It is easy to apply this to today isn't it. Yet these days 'wandering around' takes place on the phone. Do you know where your daughter is going? Or are you hoping for the best. Let us not be naïve. Let us be wise as we deal with the world around. If that time is ahead have you thought through what you will do? What about Sex-ed? Have you checked what the school is teaching? Do you know? Do you approve?

Proverbs 22:6 **Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.** That's not a guarantee ..... But let a child grow up without proper instruction and control and then things WILL (unless God dramatically intervenes) most certainly go wrong. It is the greatest dis-service you could possible do to those God has entrusted to your care. *Dad, take charge!*

*So what of Shechem?*

Shechem was not a God fearer, he succumbed to his lusts and emotions, though a RULER, he was, when it came to his passions, still a SLAVE.

Immorality is rife at university, amongst the world's brightest, Immorality is rife among the world's powerful, as we are oft reminded.

2a

We can see how the world works - 8 **But Hamor said to them, "My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife. 9 Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for yourselves. 10 You can settle among us; the land is open to you. Live in it, trade in it, add acquire property in it."** Here's the world's way - pragmatism, Intermarry, let's trade. Yet behind this civility is a greedy heart. v23

11 **Then infatuated Shechem said to Dinah's father and brothers, "Let me find favour in your eyes, and I will give you whatever you ask. Make the price for the bride and the gift I am to bring as great as you like, and I'll pay whatever you ask me. Only give me the girl as my wife."** Wasn't that fair, even generous? After all, he could, as the ruler, have just walked away - as many men do.

Well what would you have done if you were Dinah's father? How do you respond to a crisis? an emotive one at that?

1. Do you immediately seek revenge? (the emotional response)
2. Or do you stand by your rights and want recompense in full? (Legalistic)
3. Or do you take the heat out of it, seek a level-headed response, pray for wisdom and the courage to act on it? *Dad, take charge! Firstly of yourself*

*So what did Jacob do? What was his response?*

5 **When Jacob heard that his daughter Dinah had been defiled, his sons were in the fields; - so he kept quiet about it until they came home.** x2

Keep quiet sounds good, but why? Did Jacob not want to act without his sons? Didn't he not know his children well? Should he rely on their judgment?, especially on something like this? *Weak parents lean on their children*

What will his youthful sons do when they hear the news and are filled with grief, fury and indignation at the disgrace of it - will they keep their heads? We shall see.

It starts with **Hamor** speaking to **Jacob**, dad to dad:

1. Hamor deals with Jacob v6,
2. Hamor said to 'them' v8
3. Hamor is seen dealing with Jacob and his sons v11,
4. By v13 Hamor is dealing just with Jacob's sons.

What do we hear of Jacob? – nothing x2 Jacob where are you? You don't hear of him again until the end. Only in v.30 where he's left to pick up the pieces.

✚ **Hamor was acting for his son Shechem, How is Jacob acting for his?**

Jacob's sons have taken over, they're running things now. *Dad, take charge!*

2b

Is Jacob like Adam who was there with Eve when she disobeyed God - and yet said nothing? Why is it we men are silent at all the wrong times?

Oh let us beware of the sin of silence! **Speak up and judge fairly;** says Prov 31:9

If fatherly authority and respect is not been rooted in the children from an early age – it will quickly become too late. x2

■ Here's a conversation one Sunday while collecting children for Sunday school. From the Minibus window dad is sweating away in the garden "do you want to help" (Usual joke) – "I would, but tell your two young lads, they can help". "No they won't help, they just want to play with their computer games." "It would be good for them, they may groan at first but then they will appreciate doing something with Dad. Etc. etc". "No they won't". "Have you asked them? or told them?, you're the man of the house, you will earn their respect!" *Dad, take charge!*

The dad looks strong - but he's a weak man. Jacob as a father was like that, weak. Are you like that? Always giving in to the easy option? Hands off and hoping for the best, that's the fool's way. God has clearly told **fathers** x2 **bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.** Eph 6:4

That does not mean your children can barely recall John 3:16 and a couple of the 10 commandments – on a good day! It means being taught the scriptures, - thoroughly. How different Dinah was to Mary, a young woman who was steeped in the scriptures. It is obvious that God's word was central to Mary's household – and thus her life – as she was growing up. Now the Bible is hardly opened in the home – and nor sadly in many churches as well. The result is like **bumper cars** – we bump around this world as if **blindfolded**.

✚ Dads, the way you show your love to your children is to teach them the word of God. The opposite of love is indifference, don't be indifferent when it comes to this key responsibility, take charge, teach your children how they should go, teach your children the word of God.

### *So what of Jacob's sons?*

We read of their grief and fury,... but we don't read of any compassion for their sister Dinah? No mentioned of any concern for her.

This rape was a disgraceful thing for Jacob's family, the Holy people of God. Should they not have asked for Shechem to be handed over? Jacob's family, although not yet recipients of the Law through Moses would have known that the perpetrator should be punished (Moses declared that the man be stoned to death) Thus metered punishment, and justice done.

■ Even the traditional ancient Arab custom requires the culprit be stoned to death by the victims' brothers.

Dinah's brothers have the high moral ground and could act honourably as a witness to the Lord. Instead, they squeeze selfish advantage from the situation.

They lie and are deceitful v13 - aren't they just like their father Jacob – *"Like father like son?"* Your children have your traits.

■ In visiting the Sunday School parents I feel like I have met them already before I step into the home. School teachers find the same.

Jacob's unrestrained sons try to trap Shechem and plan vengeance on them all. 15 **We will give our consent to you on one condition only: that you become like us by circumcising ALL your males.** Not just Shechem.

v16 "we will **become one people with you** x2. Where they not - in their heart and conduct already like them?

How can God's Holy separated people ever say "we will **become one people with you!**" - miserably and foolishly yoking themselves with unbelievers?

They speak of the circumcision in the flesh – what of the circumcision of the heart? Where's their Godly heart? They are worse than Hamor for their hypocrisy, in their trickery they use their religion as a cover for their evil intentions. How could they brashly invite the Shemites **that you become like us**

✚ **They turn what is designed to be a blessing - into a curse.**

Shechem's response, two can play at that game - v21 **"These men are friendly towards us, Let them live in our land and trade in it; the land has plenty of room for them. We can marry their daughters and they can marry ours.**

Being religious as a means of gain, is no problem for them, that's the way the world works 23 **Won't their livestock, their property and all their other animals become ours?**

### *Let us quickly go through what happens*

25 **Simeon and Levi, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male.** With every male killed isn't that enough?

26 **They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem's house and left.** Is that it? justice done? No.

Now the older brothers influence the younger ones - 27 **The sons of Jacob came upon the dead bodies and looted the city where their sister had been defiled.**

28 **They seized their flocks and herds and donkeys and everything else of theirs in the city - and out in the fields.** - Is that the end of the matter?

v.29 **They carried off all their wealth and all their women and children, taking as plunder everything in the houses.**

What a rageful massacre and looting, Jacob's unrestrained sons are out of control. Where's their father in all this? How are his sons left to cause this havoc? Why aren't they reigned in?

### *What a shameful day*

Not just the rape of Dinah but the costly misjudgement of Jacob. Jacob didn't start it.. but he was responsible for how they messed it up. God's covenant people ended up no different from – even worse than - the pagan nations around them. What a bad witness to God who'd made them His Holy people. It was a shameful event – and we have all had them. What caused yours? was it a neglected duty? Or was it carelessness in a key relationship? Was it a poor response to a hurt, or a word said, resulting in that outburst of anger? you made it worse ..... and that caused the melt down – until it was quite unrecoverable.

Afterwards you see what you 'should' have done, how you 'should' have been as a professor of faith in Christ. How you should have reacted in a Godly way, prayerfully, carefully, thoughtfully, having self-control, taking charge, ever mindful of my responsibilities, ever conscience of the God I represent!

Older men, (myself included), are you, setting a good example to the younger men, in godliness, in wisdom, in faithful service, in patience and in grace?

There are consequences, there are always consequences, sin has consequences that remain for years, decades, a lifetime, and even beyond the grave.....

■ Dad divorcing Mum 1970ish - and remarried .....

We can and should repent and confess our sins to God who forgives our guilt - but the consequences remain. We may be forgiven for being unfaithful to our husband or wife, but consequences remain.

'60's revolt. One reason is that little was said by parents. Now the children are the parents and the grandparents, Godly men are hard to find.

✚ While must seek forgiveness for not teaching our children the Bible and modelling a Godly life - remember the consequences remain.

### *What are the consequences here? How do they fair?*

Turn with me to the end of Genesis chapter 49 when Jacob is to bless his sons v5 **Simeon and Levi are brothers--their swords are weapons of violence. Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men**

**in their anger and hamstringed oxen as they pleased. Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel.** That's what happened – Levi scattered, dispersed in Israel – Simeon contained, restrained, within the tribe of Judah in the south.

Jacob's failure to teach and train them caused them to be judged by God.

What a shameful legacy - a centuries long legacy! May we not **be the cause...**

### *Jacob, back to the Cross*

At the end of the day God's call is irrevocable, Jacob is God's man and God is not finished with him. Why not study how God moulded Jacob's character?

He continued with him – so he does with us - to mould us to Christ-likeness.

God speaks to Jacob see 35:1 ..... Get back to Bethel ... Jacob is again back to square one Bethel was where the Lord first met with Him. Genesis 28:10ff.

For us it is at the foot of the cross – you know the chorus: *There's a way back to God from the dark paths of sin; there's a door that is open and you may go in; at Calvary's cross is where you begin, when you come as a sinner to Jesus.*

I have been back there many times, surely you as well. Yes - by Christ's grace there is a way back to God for the repentant.

But is there someone sitting here this morning who has never done that?

Never repented of sin, never bowed the knee and confessed. Certainly, there are those shameful times, but for some your whole life is like that - one that has never been truly handed over to Christ. Is that you? – do it now, while you can. Christ is there, the Cross is there, the payment made, turn. **GOSPEL**

It was Jacob's dark day, a shameful day. It shook him, it surprised him. But he learned from it. He learned about himself. It brought Jacob back to his senses, he regains control of his family – In the next chapter we see Jacob taking hold of the situation. 35:2,3 **So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I wild build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone."** "Praise the Lord who has been so faith to me!"

The Lord does not give up on His people. The Lord intervened to save it being an unmitigated disaster for Jacob's family. 35:5 **the terror of God fell upon the towns all around them so that no-one pursued them.** The title is *Dad take charge* x2. Dad learn from Jacob, learn the lesson, avoid the tragedies that lie ahead. Dads be strong, be true to your profession of faith – Dad's take charge.

**END**



*Dad, take charge!*

Parenting lessons from Genesis 34:1-33

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你的人生是否曾經有過一段讓你回想起時感到遺憾的經驗？是的，我確信，一定有適合我的。那個黑暗的日子或那個黑暗的時刻。創 34 講述了其中一個時期。

Gen 34 講述了黛娜被強姦的故事，你可能會想「我需要抓住我的椅子！」有 18 部證書電影，這會是『18 張證書』講道嗎？不，這是一個“U”字形，非常安全！這裡不需要父母的指導。

是的，這對黛娜來說確實是黑暗的一天，但這段經文與她無關。是關於她的兄弟西蒙和利維嗎？是的，但實際上這是關於雅各的。 x2

創世記的 10

章交給了雅各。主顯然想從祂的一生中教導我們一些東西，這裡有重要的教訓。在《創世記》第 34 章中，我們對底拿了解了一些，但對她的父親雅各了解了很多。這是關於如何成為一個好爸爸，而不是一個壞爸爸。如何不讓孩子陷入混亂和崩潰！

我們都有一個，或曾經有過一個父親。也許你是一個父親或祖父，或者你可能嫁給了一個父親或祖父。

幾年前，教會裡的一位女士對我說：「家庭婚姻團體不適用於我，因為我是單身。她說得對嗎？？」不。

來 13:4

婚姻，人人當尊重，就是你們。所有經文都是神所默示的，對於正義的訓練很有用.....所以今天早上，無論你是誰，這段經文都是為你準備的。爸爸，你負責！ X2

在此事件之前，雅各已與拉班分手。現在，與以掃的可怕相遇已經過去，他來到示劍鎮附近居住。

第 1 節 雅各所生的女兒利亞所生的底拿出去探望那地的婦女。創世記 34:1

底拿是在雅各家、信仰之家長大的，雅各是神的人，雅各的家是神的家。他們是主所揀選的聖民，神已經向他們作出了應許，他們也就無可指摘地行走在神面前。底拿沒有被教導要仰望獨一聖潔的真神嗎？難道她沒有被告知要遠離周圍迦南民族的不道德行為，他們有不同的神和不同的標準嗎？

現在，在一個新的地方，黛娜的冒險精神和流浪精神戰勝了她。她為什麼要出去拜訪這些女人？她坐立不安嗎？是好奇心嗎？她是否想要換個環境，與家人關在一起是否太過分了？她變得不滿了嗎？

為什麼她對這些不信者的生活如此感興趣？那些女人是什麼樣的？男人們呢？她是去看——還是被看？

**猶太歷史學家約瑟夫斯建議她參加了迦南一年一度的自然節。您喜歡觀察世界正在發生的事情嗎？**

當她出發時，是什麼促使她獨自前進？難道她的父親雅各就不會知道嗎？ -

或者他對此沒意見？她的父親怎麼可能允許一個十幾歲的少年流浪到一個道德敗壞的異教城市？她孤獨而脆弱，正走向危險。青少年性情複雜，她——他——需要格外小心！

爸爸似乎對事情控制得很鬆。鬆開方向盤，不久您就會離開道路。這是一場等待發生的意外。

看來她父親對這些重要科目的教學充其量也是很少的。善意的父母留下了很多機會。

黛娜的兄弟正在田裡工作。她在做什麼？她是在閒逛嗎？被賦予去做好事的机会就會減少徘徊的空間。泰特斯說，年輕女性應該在家裡忙碌 x2 如今這並不是一個流行的想法，但卻是明智之舉。魔鬼為閒人找工作，「**不干涉**」的做法是災難性的！

底拿很容易成為獵物，她被統治者的兒子觀察並強暴了。示劍不是敬畏上帝的人，他利用了一個機會走上了自己的道路，可能不是用武力，而是出其不意。

將其應用到今天很容易，不是嗎？然而如今「閒逛」卻是透過手機進行

的。你知道你女兒要去哪裡嗎？或者你希望得到最好的結果。我們不要天真。讓我們在與周圍的世界打交道時保持明智。如果那一天到來，你有沒有想過你會做什麼？性教育怎麼樣？你查過學校教的是什麼嗎？你知道嗎？你同意嗎？

箴 22:6

教養孩童，使他走當行的道，就是到老他也不偏離。這不是一個保證.....但是，如果讓一個孩子在沒有適當的指導和控制的情況下成長，那麼事情肯定會出錯（除非上帝戲劇性地干預）。這是你對上帝託付給你照顧的人所能做的最大的傷害。爸爸，你負責！

那麼示劍呢？

示劍不是一個敬畏上帝的人，他屈服於自己的慾望和情感，雖然是一個統治者，但當**涉及到他的激情時，他仍然是一個奴隸。**

正如我們經常被提醒的那樣，不道德行為在大學裡很普遍，在世界上最聰明的人中也很普遍，在世界上最**有權勢**的人中也很普遍。

我們可以看到這個世界是如何運作的。我們，把我們的女兒娶來為妻。這就是世界之道——

實用主義，通婚，讓我們交易吧。然而，這種禮貌的背後卻是一顆貪婪的心。 v23

11  
示劍癡情地對底拿的父親和兄弟們說：「只要我在你們眼前蒙恩，你們要什麼，我就給你們。你們要給我的新娘和我要送的禮物，估價多少，我就給你們多少。這不是很公平，甚至很慷慨嗎？畢竟，作為統治者，他可以像許多人一樣一走了之。

如果你是黛娜的父親，你會怎麼做？你如何應對危機？是不是很情緒化？

1. 你會立即尋求報復嗎？（情緒反應）
2. 或您是否堅持自己的權利並希望獲得全額賠償？（律法主義）
3. 或者你會冷靜下來，尋求冷靜的回應，祈求智慧和勇氣來採取行動嗎？爸爸，你負責！首先是你自己

6a

那麼雅各做了什麼呢？他的反應是什麼？

5 雅各聽見他女兒底拿被玷污了，他的兒子們正在田裡。 - 所以他一直保持沉默，直到他們回家。 x2

保持安靜聽起來不錯，但為什麼呢？難道雅各不想在沒有兒子的情況下行動嗎？他不是不太了解自己的孩子嗎？他應該依賴他們的判斷嗎？軟弱的父母對孩子的依賴

當他年輕的兒子們聽到這個消息，並因這件事的恥辱而充滿悲傷、憤怒和憤慨時，他們會做什麼——他們會保持冷靜嗎？我們將會看到。

故事從哈莫爾對雅各的對話開始，父親對父親：

1. 哈抹論及雅各第 6 章，
2. 哈莫爾對「他們」說 v8
3. 哈抹與雅各和他的兒子們打交道第 11 節，
4. 在第 13 節中，哈抹公正地對待雅各的兒子們。

關於雅各布，我們聽到了什麼？ - 沒什麼 x2

雅各你在哪裡？直到最後你才再聽到他的消息。只有在第 30 節中，他才需要收拾殘局。

哈抹為他的兒子示劍行事，雅各又怎樣為他的兒子行事呢？

雅各的兒子們已經接管了一切，他們現在正在管理事情。爸爸，你負責！

雅各是否像亞當一樣，在夏娃悖逆上帝時陪伴在她身邊，卻什麼也沒說？為什麼我們男人總是在錯的時候保持沉默？

哦，讓我們提防沉默的罪！暢所欲言並公正判斷；箴言 31:9 說

如果父親的權威和尊重沒有從小就根植於孩子的心中，那麼很快就會為時已晚。 x2

這是一個週日，在收集孩子們去主日學校時的一次談話。從小巴車窗外，爸爸正在花園裡大汗淋漓地問：「你想幫忙嗎？」（平常的笑話）——「我願意，但告訴你的兩個小伙子，他們可以幫忙」。

“不，他們不會幫忙，他們只是想玩電腦遊戲。”

「這對他們有好處，他們一開始可能會抱怨，但後來他們會感激和爸爸

6b

一起做點什麼。等等等等」。「不，他們不會」。

「你問過他們了嗎？或告訴他們？爸爸，你負責！

父親看起來很堅強，但其實是個軟弱的人。雅各作為父親就是這樣的軟弱。你是這樣的嗎？總是屈服於簡單的選擇？放手並期待最好的結果，這就是傻瓜之道。神已經清楚地告訴父親們，按照主的訓練和指引來教養你的孩子。弗 6:4

這並不意味著您的孩子幾乎記不起《約翰福音》3章16

節和十誡中的幾條——

祝您美好的一天！這意味著徹底地教導經文。底拿與馬利亞是多麼不同，馬利亞是一位沉浸在聖經中的年輕女子。顯然，在瑪麗的成長過程中，神的話語對她的家庭乃至她的生活至關重要。現在，《聖經》在家裡幾乎不被打開——

可悲的是，在許多教會裡也是如此。結果就像碰碰車一樣——

我們就像蒙著眼睛一樣在這個世界上顛簸。

爸爸們，你們向孩子表達愛的方式就是教導他們神的話語。愛的反義詞是冷漠，在這個關鍵的責任上不要冷漠，要負起責任，教導孩子應該怎樣走，教導孩子神的話。

那麼雅各的兒子們呢？

我們讀到了他們的悲傷和憤怒，……但我們沒有讀到對他們的妹妹黛娜的任何同情？沒有提到任何對她的關心。

對雅各的家人，也就是上帝聖潔的子民來說，這種強暴是一件可恥的事。難道他們不應該要求交出示劍嗎？雅各的家人雖然還沒有透過摩西接受律法，但他們會知道肇事者應該受到懲罰（摩西宣布該人將被用石頭砸死），從而計量懲罰，伸張正義。

即使是古老的阿拉伯傳統習俗也要求受害者的兄弟用石頭砸死罪犯。

底拿的哥哥們道德高尚，能光榮地為主作見證。相反，他們從這種情況中奪取自私的利益。

他們說謊、詭詐，第13

節——他們不是像他們的父親雅各一樣——「有其父必有其子」嗎？你的孩子有你的特質。

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在拜訪主日學家長時，我感覺在踏進家門之前就已經見過他們了。學校老師也有同樣的看法。

雅各不受約束的兒子們試圖陷害示劍，並計劃向他們所有人報仇。15 我們同意你們的條件只有一個：你們要為你們所有的男性進行割禮，變得像我們一樣。不只是示劍。

v16 「我們將與你們成為一體 x2。他們不是 -

在他們的內心和行為上已經像他們一樣了嗎？

聖潔的分離子民怎能說“我們將與你成為一子民！” -

悲慘而愚蠢地與不信者同負一軛？

他們談論肉體的割禮——心靈的割禮又如何呢？他們的敬虔之心在哪裡？他們比哈莫爾更糟糕，因為他們虛偽，在他們的詭計中，他們利用他們的宗教作為他們邪惡意圖的掩護。他們怎麼能厚顏無恥地邀請謝米特人，你就變得跟我們一樣了

他們將本來是祝福的事情變成了詛咒。

示劍的回應，兩個人可以玩這個遊戲- v21

「這些人對我們很友好，讓他們住在我們的土地上並在其中進行貿易；這片土地有足夠的空間容納他們。我們可以娶他們的女兒，他們也可以娶我們的女兒。

將宗教作為一種獲取手段，對他們來說不是問題，這就是世界運作的方式。

讓我們快速回顧一下發生的事情

25

西緬和利未拿起刀劍，攻打毫無防備的城，殺光了所有的男子。每個男性都被殺還不夠嗎？

26

他們用刀殺了哈抹和他兒子示劍，並把底拿從示劍家裡帶出來就走了。是這樣嗎？正義得到伸張了嗎？不。

現在，哥哥們影響弟弟們。

7b

28 他們搶走了他們的羊群、牛群、驢子，以及城裡和田野裡的一切。——事情就這樣結束了嗎？

### 第 29 節

他們搶走了所有的財物，以及所有的婦女兒童，並把房子裡的一切都當作掠物。

多麼瘋狂的屠殺和掠奪，雅各不受約束的兒子們已經失控了。他們的父親在这一切中在哪裡？他的兒子們怎麼會造成這場浩劫呢？為什麼他們沒有被統治？

### 多麼羞恥的一天

不只是底拿被強姦，還有雅各因誤判而付出了高昂的代價。雅各不是始作俑者……但他要為他們把事情搞砸負責。上帝的聖約子民最終與他們周圍的異教國家沒有什麼不同，甚至更糟。上帝讓他們成為祂的聖民，這對上帝來說是多麼糟糕的見證。

這是一件可恥的事——

我們都經歷過。你的是什麼原因造成的？這是一項被忽視的職責嗎？還是在一段重要關係中的粗心大意？是因為對傷害的反應不佳，還是說了一句話，導致了憤怒的爆發？你讓事情變得更糟……這導致了崩潰——直到它完全無法恢復。

之後你會看到你「應該」做什麼，作為一個基督信仰的教授，你「應該」如何。你該如何以敬虔的方式做出反應，虔誠地、謹慎地、深思熟慮地、有自製力、負起責任、永遠牢記我的責任、永遠對我所代表的上帝有良心！

年長的人（包括我自己），你是否在敬虔、智慧、忠心事奉、忍耐和恩典方面為年輕人樹立了好榜樣？

有後果，總是有後果，罪的後果會持續數年、數十年、一生，甚至超越墳墓...

爸爸在 1970 年代與媽媽離婚 - 然後再婚...

我們可以而且應該向寬恕我們罪孽的上帝懺悔並承認我們的罪——

但後果仍然存在。我們對丈夫或妻子不忠可能會被原諒，但後果仍然存在。

### 60

年代的反抗。原因之一是父母很少說話。現在孩子已經是父母、祖父母了，敬虔的男人很難找了。

雖然我們必須尋求寬恕，因為我們沒有教導我們的孩子聖經並塑造敬虔的生活，但請記住，後果仍然存在。

這裡的後果是什麼？他們如何公平？

跟我一起翻到《創世記》第 49

章的結尾，當時雅各要祝福他的兒子們。讓我不要參加他們的議會，讓我不要參加他們的集會，因為他們已經殺人了在他們的憤怒中，隨心所欲地砍斷牛的腿筋。詛咒他們的憤怒，如此猛烈，他們的憤怒，如此殘酷！我必使他們分散在雅各，分散他們在以色列。這就是所發生的事——利未分散，分散在以色列——西緬被包含、限制在南方的猶大支派中。

雅各未能教導和訓練他們，導致他們受到神的審判。這是多麼可恥的遺產——長達幾個世紀的遺產！但願我們不是原因...

雅各布，回到十字架

歸根究底，神的呼召是不可撤銷的，雅各是神的人，神與祂的關係還沒有結束。為什麼不研究神如何塑造雅各的品格呢？

他繼續與他一起——他也與我們一起——將我們塑造得像基督。

神對雅各說話，參考 35:1 .....

回到伯特利...雅各再次回到原來的地方

伯特利是主第一次與他相遇的地方。創世記 28:10 以後。

對我們來說，它就在十字架的腳下——你知道副歌：有一條路可以從罪惡的黑暗之路回到上帝身邊；有扇門開著，你可以進去；當你作為罪人來到耶穌面前時，加略山的十字架就是你開始的地方。

我已經去過那裡很多次了，當然你也是。是的一靠著基督的恩典，悔改的人有一條回到上帝身邊的路。

但今天早上坐在這裡的有人從未這樣做過嗎？從未悔改過罪，從未屈膝認罪。當然，也有那些可恥的時刻，但對某些人來說，你的一生就是這



樣—從未真正交給基督。那是你嗎？ -  
趁你還可以，現在就做吧。基督在那裡，十字架在那裡，付款已經完成，輪到了。福音

這是雅各的黑暗日子，恥辱的日子。這讓他震驚，也讓他驚訝。但他從中吸取了教訓。他了解了自己。這讓雅各回過神來，他重新掌控了他的家庭—在下一章我們會看到雅各掌控了局勢。 35:2, 3

雅各就對他的全家和一切與他同在的人說：「除掉你們隨身攜帶的外邦神祇，潔淨自己，更換衣服。然後我們上伯特利去，我在那裡為上帝築了一座壇，上帝在我遭難的日子應允了我，無論我走到哪裡，它都陪伴著我。 “讚美主，他對我如此有信心！”

主並沒有放棄祂的子民。主的介入拯救了雅各家的一場徹底的災難。

35:5

天主的驚嚇臨到他們四圍的城鎮，以致沒有人追趕他們。標題是爸爸負責x2。爸爸向雅各學習，吸取教訓，避免即將發生的悲劇。爸爸們要堅強，忠於自己的信仰——爸爸負責。結尾