

Which
Thing Ought not be
Done

Genesis Chapter Thirty-Four



~ Our last report from our Spiritual Safari brought us the birth of the nation Israel. I would dare say most Christians – and even most preachers – are not as familiar with Israel as a nation as they should be. Without a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Israel from the perspective of a Biblical background it is utterly impossible to understand prophecy. The proper, correct and complete understanding of eschatology takes many years and decades. It is not revealed in a seminary semester or two. It's neither learned by sitting around debating it as a group nor is it useful in that environment. There is no shortcut and there is no substitute for studying the Bible in its entirety; and I am aware of all the gimmicks that somehow get you rushed through the Bible in a hurry. Well, those of you who trust me by now will trust me when I tell you that you cannot go through the Bible in a hurry. Learning a chapter or two and memorizing a few verses won't make you an authority on the Word of God. God has given us sixty-six books and the only way to know these truths is to know all sixty-six books. I might add there is a proper way to learn them chronologically, as well – Revelation being last!

As we also said in our last report, our spiritual growth is ever so slow. Well, the growth of prophecy in our thinking is even slower. Only a competent, educated, sincere knowledge of all the Words of the law of God can open eschatology to your mind by the power of the Spirit of God in a meaningful way. Those people who begin with Revelation are absolutely lost in Holy Writ. They're just backwards. Further, if we preach only prophecy there will never be any trouble in our ministry, no disagreement or disharmony - even if we're wrong both doctrinally and prophetically – no one cares about that. As long as you tell them what they want to hear they will lap it up like margaritas at a mariachi fiesta – and, candidly, they don't care if it's too strong - but they won't have it too weak! However, if you decide you will

teach the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ properly, correctly and completely – you had better expect trouble in every shape and form imaginable, expect to walk alone, expect to be told you are wrong and expect absolutely no support whatsoever.

Alright, let's return down to this very colorful character called Jacob on earth where something always seems to be happening in his interesting life. There will never be a dull moment with Israel, actually. There are tremendous spiritual lessons that we are approaching now; and what we said in our last report was that this chapter is another very sad, sordid and ugly picture. In fact, we have three awful chapters in the Word of God - and they all concern the children of Leah. Remember, she is the eldest daughter of Laban given to Jacob in the breach of contract. God does not approve the plurality of marriages. God does not approve of deceit and fraud. According to Jacob, the marriage to Leah was forced on him – and that's true - but that's merely a justification for him keeping two wives when polygamy is not right. Friends, we're not going to get by with sin in our lives and we're not going to find a loophole in God's Tax Code, I promise you that. I am absolutely sure Jacob loved them both and wanted them both; but that doesn't make it right. If you don't think so. then you're entirely wrong because Jacob will pay dearly for this sin in his life very soon. If you think God approved of this two-wife marriage, you are entirely mistaken and, Scripturally speaking, you have utterly missed the point.

The children of Jacob and Leah are ALL involved in sin at the time in which we are studying. Simeon, Levi, Judah and Reuben - whom we will see in the next chapter – all turn out rather badly, quite frankly, regarding sin in their lives. For those who believe they will be justified by the law – none of the twelve tribes of Israel ever were! This family has had sins and strife and conflicts throughout their history - but this is where we will begin to see an element of particularly sordid blackness of darkness that lies within those problems. We haven't seen this level of awfulness until now. These are really big problems. The background for all of these sins that are now manifested can be traced directly back to the home of Laban, too, by the way....

1 And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.

3 And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel.

4 And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel to wife.

5 And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come.

6 And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him.

7 And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done.

~ Okay, we're forced to talk about rape here for a moment. We will see it again in Scripture, too. The church today is totally ineffective because they have stopped addressing issues head on. I think it's time someone said these things and it's going to take the same strong language that's being used today. Not crude; but wise, intelligent and authoritative - The Word of God. Sin needs to be spelled out; and God doesn't mind doing so....and rape is S – I – N. Well, what ought not to be done was done; and now the man wants to marry the woman to whom it was done. Only that institution of God can make this situation right; so, that's honorable. Unfortunately, Jacob calls the boys in from the field and has a safety meeting where they decide the town isn't safe. My personal feeling is that Jacob took this too far because it's obvious Hamor wanted to make Dinah his wife. Yes, it was bad – it was sin - but it could be worse - and Jacob is the one making it

worse. This is another thing that was common practice in society in that day - and that's why it is recorded in the Bible. It was not approved of by God - but this is the record of what happened - and still does happen all the time today. We must be realistic and apply this to our lives or everything in the Bible is useless and, obviously, it's not useless – at least, not to me it isn't....

8 And Hamor communed with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him to wife.

9 And make ye marriages with us, and give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you.

10 And ye shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade ye therein, and get you possessions therein.

11 And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give.

12 Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife.

13 And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister:

14 And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us:

~ Quite frankly, I think taking daughters would have been wrong – but giving Dinah would have been right given what had transpired and taken place. Jacob is definitely better off to just move along and not mix with these people in this land. See, this was just no place for him. I think I hold Jacob ultimately responsible for not controlling the deception that was just given birth here, too. Once again, they are planning to deceive this man. The utterly disturbing thing is that it wasn't so much the sin that made her a reproach to her brothers; but, rather, the fact that her man was a

foreigner – which made it impossible for Jacob to give her to him as a wife....

15 But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcised;

16 Then will we give our daughters unto you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.

~ So, the ruse is hatched, and the men bought it. If they go through the ritual of circumcision, that will make them fit to marry into Jacob's family; or so they are told. It's the same old pious religious trickery as before – except this time it's going to result in mass murder. When will this family ever learn? – Ever? This should be a five alarm wake up call warning siren to every self-professing believer today: because many people think they have accepted Christ with a flippant, “....sure, I'll accept Him” – but, when asked what they have really done, they have no wisdom to declare. Saying these things, people think I am very harsh. I know they quickly move down the threads of this forum on which I teach to the “love, love, love” and prosperity preachers of phony prophecy – that's okay with me. My responsibility ends when I present Christ to you. That's where your responsibility begins, too, by the way. Perhaps you may want to move on now? I hope you'll stay with us – but I don't recommend you do so.

To say we have trusted Christ when there is no evidence of it in our lives, or to join the church but nothing really happens to our hearts as a result, is blasphemy – and these people that just nod their heads yes as they bump along through a sermon where faith doesn't mean very much to them – well, they are NOT saved. They may have the right vocabulary - but they don't have the assurance of salvation - and they don't really know if God is real or not – even though they talk about Jesus all the time! There is nothing in this world that can compare to the tremendous experience of trusting Christ correctly as your Savior and then getting in the Word of God to know Him. When and if you do, there will be a profound change in your life. Remember, we said in our safari Introductory reports that transformed

lives are the number one proof that the Bible is real. Things are different for you in this world if you have trusted Christ.

Mark Twain was certainly not a Christian, but he fell in love with a Christian girl. She would not marry him until he became a Christian. So, Mark confessed that he accepted Christ as his Savior and their marriage started out on that basis. Mark Twain became very famous, of course. Many famous people from around the world were entertained by him. Mark moved, worked and operated in that circle of high society. One day he came home to her in Missouri, and she asked him to go to church with her. He called her a pet name he had for her and said, "....I can't keep up this front any longer. You go on to church because I am certain I am not a Christian." That ended the marriage and damaged the life, heart and mind of a Christian woman forever....

17 But if ye will not hearken unto us, to be circumcised; then will we take our daughter, and we will be gone.

18 And their words pleased Hamor, and Shechem Hamor's son.

19 And the young man deferred not to do the thing, because he had delight in Jacob's daughter: and he was more honourable than all the house of his father.

20 And Hamor and Shechem his son came unto the gate of their city, and communed with the men of their city, saying,

21 These men are peaceable with us; therefore let them dwell in the land, and trade therein; for the land, behold, it is large enough for them; let us take their daughters to us for wives, and let us give them our daughters.

22 Only herein will the men consent unto us for to dwell with us, to be one people, if every male among us be circumcised, as they are circumcised.

23 Shall not their cattle and their substance and every beast of theirs be ours? Only let us consent unto them, and they will dwell with us.

24 And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city.

25 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.

~ These men had started out sounding good when they said they would be one with them, but they intended to rob Jacob before it was over. These men were consenting to a ceremony of circumcision for every reason EXCEPT getting back the girl – this was just phony. Actually, it's as phony as going to church when you're not converted. Frankly, if you go to church for any other reason than to worship God, then going to church is a sin for you. You would do better to just stay home. That sounds like real trickery. Masterful, maybe? Friends, Simeon and Levi are the full brothers of Dinah who we are talking about and deeply wanted to get revenge. They went too far; but the fact that Hamor intended to dispossess Jacob and his twelve sons of the wealth they had accumulated in Haran, while not justifying the acts here of Simeon and Levi, reveals a nearly impossible situation to deal with concerning rival tribal inhabitants and factions in the land in that day at the time in which we are studying....

26 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.

27 The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.

28 They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field,

29 And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in the house.

30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the

Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me ; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

31 And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?

~ So many bad things have been learned in Laban's home that it's overwhelming. SO many things are wrong in the life of Jacob that will have to be straightened out. He has the unmitigated audacity to rebuke his sons for giving him a bad name. Imagine this story on a news channel. There is no rebuke from Jacob for the sins his sons committed; and, frankly, that disturbs me to no end, friends. It reveals that we have such an abjectly wrong – thoroughly erroneous perspective today of sin in our life and our actions and the effect that it has on our lives and the lives of others around us. Many men and women won't take a stand on certain issues because the crowd they run with may not accept them back if they do. They don't dare declare dogma on any subject or issue; it's not a matter of right and wrong – it's all a matter of whether or not it ingratiates them to their little group or crowd. God have mercy on those who operate with a total disregard for how their lives affect others – never asking if what they are doing is the right, Christian, Biblical thing to do. They never ask themselves, in a Christian context, "....as a child of God is this something I should do or not do?" As a result, our churches are brimming with compromise. It's no wonder to me at all that there are so many unhappy Christians. Let's stand for the truth today, my safari friends. When we do – we won't have to compromise.

Well, Jacob is still compromising as we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. Let's address the question in verse thirty-one head on. The boys are attempting to defend themselves of their wrongful actions here; but I would say if they wanted to take judgment into their own hands, they should have heard this man out. Allowing him to marry may or may not have been the right thing to do; but it would be the best of all the wrong things because all of their choices were wrong after this. It was really the only reasonable outcome – because murder is never an acceptable or reasonable thing to do. There is no excuse whatsoever. Many pastors and Bible teachers have attempted to justify this

account; but I am certainly not attempting to justify this incident to you. There is no defense, and they should not have done this. Period.

For the genuine Christian today, Romans chapter twelve is the policy we must follow – but these men didn't have Romans chapter twelve. If we were to attempt to get vengeance or revenge today it would mean we were not walking by faith as we would be saying we didn't trust God to work it out. Quite candidly, I don't think we can bring most people to that level at this particular time. I do not condone this murder and it's not justified. The end; with Jacob riding out to Bethel - and we're going back to Bethel with him in our next report ~

