

## OLD TESTAMENT STORIES FOR

# PERILOUS<sup>1</sup> TIMES

2 Timothy 3:1-5

## SHECHEM: A CITY DEFILED

### INTRODUCTION

Jacob the son of Isaac journeyed for thirty long years, traveling here and there. In this chapter of his life, we find him, his wives, Leah and Rachel, his twelve sons, and Dinah his only daughter settling in Shechem. This was a place that God had not called him to be. While there Dinah was tragically violated, igniting a horrific act of bloodshed on the city and its inhabitants. None the less, God in His patient mercy met the patriarch once more, and directed him back into His perfect will.

### THEME SCRIPTURE

*Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land (Genesis 34:1).*

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<sup>1</sup> PERILOUS - Greek *chapelos* reducing strength: difficult, dangerous, furious, fierce, savage.

## SECTION I - Settling in Shechem<sup>2</sup>

READ Genesis 33:18-20.

1. Where did Jacob come safely<sup>3</sup> to (v. 18)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where is this located? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he coming from? \_\_\_\_\_ 4

2. What did he do there (v. 18b, 19)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who did he buy the parcel of land from? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 5

3. What did Jacob erect there (v. 20)? \_\_\_\_\_

What was it called? \_\_\_\_\_ 6

## LOOK DEEPER

READ Genesis 31:13.

Jacob brought his family to Shechem, a place that God had not directed him and his family to be. Where had God directed him to go (Genesis 31:13b)?

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God had appeared to Jacob in a dream as the God of Bethel when he left his home in Beersheba<sup>7</sup> on his way to Haran<sup>8</sup>.

READ Genesis 28:10-22 and ANSWER the following questions.

DESCRIBE what happened when Jacob lay down to sleep (vv. 10-12). \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>2</sup> SHECHEM - Hebrew *skem* ridge: back or shoulder; a city in Mt. Ephraim situated between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim in the land of Palestine.

<sup>3</sup> safely - Hebrew *salem* or *shalem* peaceful: a place near Jacob's well. *And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan . . .* (Genesis 33:18a, KJV).

<sup>4</sup> Padan Aram: the table land of Aram, a region of Syria; the land of Jacob's mother Rebekah; where he married Leah and Rachel.

<sup>5</sup> Hamor - Hebrew *Hamor* donkey: he-ass; Shechem's father.

<sup>6</sup> El Elohe: literally God, the God of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> Beersheba - Hebrew *Beer-Sheba* the well of sevenfold oath: seven wells; Jacob's home from where he fled from his brother Esau after he stole his birth right (Genesis 25:29-34, Genesis 27).

<sup>8</sup> Haran - Hebrew *Charn* mountaineer: the name of the town where Abraham migrated to from Ur of the Chaldees, the place where Jacob escaped to from the wrath of his brother Esau; the home of his uncle Laban, when he married Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29-30:1-24).

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When the LORD appeared to him, who did He declare He was (v. 13a)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was God's promise to Jacob (vv. 13b-15)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What was revealed to Jacob (vv. 16, 17)? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did he worship God? What did he name his place of worship (vv. 18, 19)? \_\_\_\_\_

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WRITE in detail what was included in Jacob's vow (vv. 20-22). \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>9</sup> Bethel - Hebrew *Beyth* -'EL literally House of God.

PERSONAL

Jacob took his family and pitched his tent before the city of Shechem, a place where God had not directed him to go. Where has God directed you to go and you did not obey?

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How has God been patient with you? \_\_\_\_\_

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SECTION II - Dinah<sup>10</sup> Violated

READ Genesis 34:1-4.

1. Who was Dinah (v. 1a)? \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>11</sup>

2. Where did Dinah go (v. 1b)? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Who was Shechem (v. 2a)? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. When the prince saw Dinah how did he shame her (v. 2b)? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What were his feelings toward her (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>10</sup> Dinah - Hebrew *Diyana* justice: judgment.

<sup>11</sup> Leah - Hebrew *Lea* weary: elder daughter of Laban, first wife of Jacob, and mother of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah.

6. What did Shechem request of his father Hamor (v. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION III - Negotiations Concerning Dinah

READ Genesis 34:5-12.

1. How did Jacob respond when he heard that his daughter was violated (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Hamor, the father of Shechem respond (v. 6)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did the sons of Jacob respond when they heard their sister was violated (v. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL

How have you reacted when you have experienced overwhelming bad news? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Hamor propose to Jacob (vv. 8-10)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Shechem propose to Jacob and his sons (vv. 11, 12)? \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION IV - The Deceitful Plot

READ Genesis 34:13-24.

1. Who negotiated with Shechem and his father Hamor (v. 13)? \_\_\_\_\_

What was their intent? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the condition that Dinah's brothers presented in response to Shechem and his father's proposal (vv. 14-17)?

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3. What is said about Shechem and his response to their proposal (vv. 18, 19)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did Hamor and Shechem convince all the men in their city to consent to being circumcised (vv. 20-24)?

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<sup>12</sup> dowry - Hebrew *mohar* price for a wife: wedding money; bride-price.

<sup>13</sup> circumcised - Hebrew *mul* to cut short: to cut off all or part of the foreskin of the male organ.

<sup>14</sup> gate: the main gate of a city where the elders conducted all the commercial and legal transactions; a place for the town's people to assemble for public deliberations, reading the Law and proclamations, and to gather news.

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## SECTION V - Dinah Avenged

READ Genesis 34:25-31.

1. How did Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, take revenge on the men of Shechem (vv. 25, 26)? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What did the rest of the sons of Jacob do (vv. 27-29)? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How did Jacob confront his sons (v. 30)? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did they defend their actions (v. 31)? \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION VI - Back to Bethel

READ Genesis 35:1-5.

1. How did God demonstrate His grace<sup>15</sup> and mercy to Jacob and his household (v. 1)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>15</sup> grace: the unmerited favor of God to sinful mankind; grace meets man in his wickedness and offers righteousness as a gift.

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2. Encouraged once more by God to return to Bethel, what does Jacob exhort his household to do (v. 2, 3)?

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3. How did his household obey (v. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did God bless their obedience (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_

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### PERSONAL

How has God showed you grace and mercy when you have disobeyed God? \_\_\_\_\_

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### THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE out the THEME SCRIPTURE.

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\_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 34:1)



*Then God said to Jacob, 'Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there;  
and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you  
when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.'*

Genesis 35:1

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