

# Torah Studies

Meeting Esau, Settling  
in Canaan

Genesis 33 – 34

# Genesis: In the Beginning



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Torah Studies

Commitment to God's Word

## Torah Studies

## Commitment to God's Word

- Psalm 119:61-64 (NKJV)

61 The cords of the wicked have bound me,  
But I have not forgotten Your law.

62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You,  
Because of Your righteous judgments.

## Torah Studies

## Commitment to God's Word

- Psalm 119:61-64 (NKJV)

63 I am a companion of all who fear You,  
And of those who keep Your precepts.

64 The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy;  
Teach me Your statutes.

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

## Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- In **Genesis 31 – 32**, things got difficult for Jacob and God informed him that it was time to go back home.
- He left without telling his father-in-law Laban, taking his wives, children and flocks.
- Laban chased him down, leading to the first of several confrontations before Jacob's life would get settled.

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

## Introduction

- In today's Chapters:
- We will see two of those confrontations.
- The first will be with his brother Esau.
- The second will be a bit more complicated.
- It will involve the rape of his daughter and a massacre that followed it carried out by two of his sons.

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

Outline



# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

## Outline

- I. Jacob and Esau Meet 33:1-20
- II. The Massacre at Shechem 34:1-31

# I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

# I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- 33:3 bowing himself to the ground seven times
- This is a sign of homage fit for a king.
- Jacob was taking no chances!

## I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- 33:4 We've already seen how Jacob had changed.
- It seems a change of heart had taken place in Esau over time too.

## I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- Jacob's prayer in the last chapter reminds us where his heart has been recently. See 32:9-12.
- Proverbs 16:7

When a man's ways please the Lord

He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

## I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- 33:8 Esau asks, "What's up with this big present?"
- 33:9-11 Esau said, "I have enough ..." And Jacob said, "... I have enough."
- What a change in these two brothers!

# I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- 33:11 Jacob: “Please accept my blessing”
- Thus he urged him, and he took it.
- This is a good example of propitiation – a special word in Bible vocabulary.
- We will explain this a little better at the end.

# I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

*Although Esau did not receive the great blessing — the covenant blessing, — that having gone to Jacob who secured it by deception, yet Esau did receive a great blessing of a temporal kind, which Isaac pronounced upon him with all the fervor of a father who ...*

*— Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892),  
English pastor and Bible teacher*





# I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

*... loved his son most ardently. Esau thus received what he most wanted, for he cared very little for the spiritual blessing, — not being a spiritual man, — and when he obtained the temporal blessing, that satisfied his heart, and he said, 'It is enough.'*

*— Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892),  
English pastor and Bible teacher*



# I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- 33:14 Until I come to my lord in Seir.
- Jacob will never make it Seir which is farther to the south than he will go.

## I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- 33:17 Succoth means "booths." It was E of the Jordan and just N of the Jabbok.
- 33:18 Jacob built a house and must have stayed in Succoth for a long time.

## I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- Now he crosses the Jordan and moves on to **Shechem**, an important city in Canaan at that time.
- Abraham also came through here on his first arrival in Canaan. See **Genesis 12:6**.

# I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20

- 33:20 Jacob built an altar as an act of worship.
- El-Elohe-Israel means “God, the God of Israel” or “a Mighty God is the God of Israel.”

## I. Jacob and Esau Meet

33:1-20



*When Jacob came to Shechem, he not only bought the parcel of land there, but he also dug a well. This well that Jacob dug at Shechem is the well where Jesus met that woman of Samaria who came out to draw water.*

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:1 Dinah was probably about 14 or 15 at this time.
- 34:2-3 After raping her, Shechem then wished to marry her.
- There will be no apology, no remorse.
- This gives us an idea of the moral condition of Canaanite society at this time.



## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:6 The father Hamor approached Jacob to arrange a marriage between Dinah and Shechem.
- Bible Trivia: Hamor
- This man's name sounds like the Hebrew for donkey.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:7 Israel This is the first time this name is used for the whole group, the whole family.
- There is a developing consciousness that they are a separate people.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:9-10 Jacob and his sons are receiving an offer that neither Abraham nor Isaac ever received.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31



*Ancient records show that the Land of Canaan was comprised of city-states with nomads around the periphery who hoped to become citizens of these city-states ...*

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.*

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31



*... There were many nomads around wishing to have this status, and Lot was one who had gotten that status.*

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.*

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:9-10 The men of Shechem would have believed this was a way to honor Jacob and his family.
- 34:13 The sons of Jacob answered ... deceitfully.
- They never intended to make peace with Shechem.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:15 Hamor's proposal of intermarriage of the two groups was accepted – or so it seems.
- The sons of Jacob give one condition – that every male in Shechem be circumcised.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:20 The gate of their city was the center of public activity.
- In 19:1, this is where the angels found Lot – sitting in the gate of Sodom.
- Here Hamor and Shechem persuaded the others to be circumcised.



## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:25 On the third day Simeon and Levi waged a two-man war of revenge while the men were in pain.
- They killed all the men of Shechem, including Hamor and Shechem.
- They rescued Dinah, and taking as spoil the women and wealth of the city.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:25 On his deathbed, Jacob speaks of this incident when he prophesies over his sons.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- Genesis 49:5-7

5 Simeon and Levi are brothers;

weapons of violence are their swords.

6 Let my soul come not into their council;

O my glory, be not joined to their company.

For in their anger they killed men,

and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen ...

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- Genesis 49:5-7

... 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce,  
and their wrath, for it is cruel!

I will divide them in Jacob  
and scatter them in Israel.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:25 Simeon was given an inheritance within the territory of Judah.
- The Levites, as the priestly tribe, had no inheritance of their own.
- They rather had cities scattered throughout the land out among the various tribes.

## II. The Massacre at Shechem

34:1-31

- 34:30 You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land.
- Jacob was concerned about what this massacre would mean to the peace and security of his family.
- 34:31 His sons, however, didn't seem quite so concerned.

Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

Genesis 33 – 34

Conclusion

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Conclusion

On Getting Revenge:



# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

Genesis 33 – 34

Conclusion

## On Getting Revenge:

- The Bible allows for governments to settle matters of crime between people or nations.
- This right even extends to capital punishment or war.

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

## Conclusion

### On Getting Revenge:

- On the other hand, as Christians, we should back away from taking personal revenge.

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

Genesis 33 – 34

Conclusion

## On Getting Revenge:

- Romans 12:18-20

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” (See Deuteronomy 32:35) ...

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

Genesis 33 – 34

Conclusion

On Getting Revenge:

- Romans 12:18-20

... 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” (See Proverbs 25:22)

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

## Conclusion

### On Getting Revenge:

- The Bible also says a lot about our own need to forgive others and forgive one another.

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

Genesis 33 – 34

Conclusion

On Getting Revenge:

- Ephesians 4:31-32

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

## Genesis 33 – 34

## Conclusion

### On Getting Revenge:

- Forgiveness is not pretending the wrong never took place.
- It is saying that, in the end, justice is God's business.
- It is also a reminder that we too have been forgiven by God – thanks to the blood of Christ.

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Conclusion

Propitiation:



# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

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## Conclusion

### Propitiation:

- 1 John 2:2

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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*To propitiate means to render one person favorably disposed toward another. It signifies the averting of wrath by the offering of a gift to appease the offended party's anger.*

*– Tony Evans, pastor, author*



# Meeting Esau, Settling in Canaan

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Conclusion

Propitiation:

- 1 John 4:9-10

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

# Torah Studies



# Genesis: In the Beginning

## A New Era in Canaan Genesis 35 – 36

Quiet Prayer – Konstanty Szewczenko