



*Go for God!*

## The Book of GENESIS

### Chapter 33 - 34

## *“Relationships, Rape & Revenge!”*

### **Chapter 32 – “RELATIONSHIPS”**

(v1-11) **Enduring relationships are built upon the GRACE of God.** GRACE (Heb. is *chanan* (*khaw-nan'*) - *"to pardon or to show mercy."* The word occurs around 80 times in the Hebrew Old Testament, the first time here in Genesis 33:5. (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

(v12-20) **As we journey with God throughout our lifetime may we always WORSHIP Him.**

(v16) **SEIR (hairy, rough)** - The mountainous country stretching from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, east of the gorge called the Arabah (Gen 14:6). The elevations of Seir range from 183 meters (600 feet) to 1,830 meters (6,000 feet). Two of Seir's outstanding features are Mount Hor, where Aaron died (Num 20:27-28), and the ancient city of rock, Petra or Sela (Isa 16:1). The region was named after a Horite (Hurrian) patriarch whose descendants settled in this area. God gave this land to Esau and his descendants, who drove out the Horites, or Hurrians (Deut 2:12).

Esau and his descendants, the Edomites, lived in Seir (Deut 2:29). This explains why God directed the children of Israel not to invade this territory when they moved from Egypt toward the Promised Land (Deut 2:4-5). Although Seir was originally the name of the mountain range in Edom, the name came to signify the entire territory of Edom south of the Dead Sea (2 Chron 20:10). King David made these people his servants (2 Sam 8:14). Later, in the days of King Jehoshaphat of Judah, the people of Mount Seir (the EDOMITES) joined the Ammonites and the Moabites in an invasion against Judah (2 Chron 20:10,22-23). Later, the prophet Ezekiel predicted God's destruction of "Mount Seir" because of their strong hatred of Israel and their desire to possess the lands of Israel and Judah (Ezek 35). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(v17) **SUCCOTH (booths)** - the site where Jacob put up booths for his cattle and built a house for himself. It was apparently east of the Jordan River.

(v18) **SHECHEM (shoulder)** - Is first mentioned in connection with Abraham's journey into the land of Canaan. When Abraham eventually came to Shechem, the Lord appeared to him and announced that this was the land He would give to Abraham's descendants (Gen 12:6; Sichem, KJV). This fulfilled God's promise to Abraham at the time of his call (Gen 12:1-3). In response, Abraham built his first altar to the Lord in Canaan at Shechem (Gen 12:7). Because of this incident, Shechem is an important place in the religious history of the Hebrew people. Upon his return from Padan Aram, Jacob, a grandson of Abraham, also built an altar to the Lord at Shechem (Gen 33:18-20). This marked Jacob's safe return to the Promised Land from the land of self-imposed exile. According to Jewish tradition, Jacob dug a deep well here (**John 4:12**). Jacob's Well is one of the few sites visited by Jesus that is identifiable today. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(v20) **El Elohae Israel (ale el-o-hay' yis-law-ale')** – *“The Mighty God of Israel”* – Jacob worships God as the *“Almighty”* and as the God of his new name *Israel*.

### **Chapter 34 – “RAPE & REVENGE”**

(v1-7) **Dinah, Jacob’s daughter is raped by Hamor’s son, Shechem.** Later in the Mosaic laws concerning rape and seduction we read in **Exodus 22:16-17** - *"If a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her to be his wife. If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride-price of virgins."*

**Also in Deuteronomy 22:25-27** - *"But if a man finds a betrothed young woman in the countryside, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the young woman; there is in the young woman no sin deserving of death, for just as when a man rises against his neighbor and kills him, even so is this matter. For he found her in the countryside, and the betrothed young woman cried out, but there was no one to save her."*

(v8-17) The brothers of Dinah, Simeon and Levi, want revenge. What about revenge today? Today we have civil laws for justice – **Romans 13:1-4**; God ultimately will avenge **Romans 12:17-21**.

(v18-24) *Lust and greed* can make men weak, vulnerable and foolish.

(v25-31) The price of sin, death and destruction. Turn to **1 Corinthians 6:9-20**. Remember the woman caught in adultery (**John 8:1-12**). *"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*