

CHAPTER ANALYSIS FORM

Chapter: 33,34

Chapter Title: Jacob returns

1. Chapter Summary:

1. Chapter 33

- a. Jacob meets Esau 1-7
- b. Esau accepts the gifts 8-11
- c. Jacob returns to form 12-16
- d. Jacob worships God 18-20

2. Chapter 34

- a. Dinah defiled 1-2
- b. Dinah desired 3-12
- c. Dinah's brothers' deceit 13-17
- d. Hamor's deceit 18-24
- e. Dinah delivered 25-31

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	Chapter 33		
1-7	Esau arrives. Jacob splits the people into groups and leads them to meet Esau, bowing before his brother as he goes. Esau welcomes him with hugs and kisses and then meets Jacob's family.	1-7	Jacob is still being coy and careful. He is still trying to curry Esau's favor. He is still being careful with the family. Esau is still his emotional and explosive self – welcoming Jacob in a demonstrative way. Jacob's fear appears to be misplaced. Again, the promise that the elder will serve the younger seems to only come about in the nations of Israel and Edom and not in the personal relationship of Esau and Jacob.
8-11	Esau asks about all the livestock sent ahead. Jacob tells him they are gifts. They argue but Esau finally accepts.	8-11	
12-16	Esau wants Jacob to follow him to Seir. Jacob begs off so Esau offers to leave some people with him. Jacob declines and tells Esau he will come along later. Then he goes to Succoth and settles there.	12-16	There is some wisdom in Jacob's actions. Even though Esau seems to have forgiven him, he is travelling with a large retinue of people and livestock. It would be difficult for him to fit in in Esau's kingdom. That, on top of the covenant promise, prompted him to go to Succoth (booths or "tabernacles"). But the old Jacob is still there as he does so on the sly. Succoth is very close to the area where Jacob wrestled with God and where he met with Esau.
18-20	Jacob arrives in Shechem, buys some land, and builds an altar to worship God.	18-20	Shechem is about 20 miles from Succoth. It is almost in the middle of the land promised to Abraham and is the first named location associated with Abraham. This is also the first mention of an altar and worship of God associated with Jacob.

<https://www.bible-history.com/maps/8-jacobs-journeys.html>

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	Chapter 34		
1-2	Dinah goes out with some of the local women. One of the local men rapes her.	1-2	It's possible that Dinah's going out to see the women of the land has negative connotations. (See Genesis 27:46). Or she may have made friends with some of the local women. Whatever the case, one of the local men takes her by force. This is an evil act.
3-12	Shechem falls for Dinah and wants to marry her. Jacob hears what happens and says nothing. Once the brothers return they are furious. Hamor, Shechem's father, asks for Dinah to be given to Shechem as his wife and tells Jacob's family to name whatever bride price they want. He also wants Jacob's children to intermarry with them.	3-12	Jacob remains silent and does not seek the justice due his daughter. It may be fear of numbers again as the sons are in the fields with the livestock. Her brothers were angry, appropriately, but that anger was not a "righteous" anger. It is also interesting that Hamor is making the bride price negotiations with Jacob's sons instead of Jacob.
13-17	The bride price asked for Dinah is for all the men of Shechem to be circumcised. This is a ruse and a wicked one at that.	13-17	On its face this is not a horrible request. For the local men to be part of Abraham's family circumcision was required. The problem is the deeper treachery. The first thing I thought of was the third commandment, "You shall not take the name of Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." You can also see the generational progression of sin. Each generation has dealt treacherously with others but each time it is done more cavalierly with more dire consequences.
18-24	Hamor and Shechem are not innocent. They assume that by doing this they will gain Jacob's trust and, eventually, his wealth.	18-24	You see that the men of Shechem are dealing treacherously as well although they are only concerned about wealth and status.

<p>25-31</p>	<p>The men of Shechem are circumcised and, on the third day, at the point of their greatest discomfort, Simeon and Levi slaughter all the men in the town. They take all the spoils and livestock. Jacob is angry because they two have now made enemies with the other Canaanite tribes. They are angry because of what happened to Dinah.</p>	<p>25-31</p>	<p>Instead of seeking justice for Dinah, her brothers seek revenge. This is the perfect example of the deadly affect of revenge because revenge is never about justice or even "...an eye for an eye..." it is always about retribution and inflicting more pain and suffering than the original occurrence. It's sad that Jacob's response really doesn't surprise us. Instead of taking a leadership role and seeking justice from the start he takes a passive role and then is angry because his standing in the community has been tainted and HE may be attacked by other Canaanite tribes. The brothers are still angry at Jacob for not doing anything about Dinah.</p>
--------------	---	--------------	---

4. Correlation		5. Application
Where Else Is It Explained?		What Will I Do About It?
Verse		
	Chapter 33	
1-7		
8-11		
12-16		
18-20	Genesis 12:6 Joshua 24:1, 32 John 4:5 Acts 7:16	

4. Correlation		5. Application
Where Else Is It Explained?		What Will I Do About It?
Verse		
	Chapter 34	
1-2		
3-12	Deuteronomy 22:29 Judges 14:12 2 Samuel 13:12	
13-17	Genesis 17:14 Exodus 12:48	
18-24		
25-31	Genesis 49:5-7	

6. Conclusions

7. One Personal Application

