



# DINAH

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### Who is Dinah?

Dinah meant “judgement or justice”. She was the daughter of Leah and Jacob.

### Bible account:

**Genesis 30:21; Genesis 34**

Genesis 34 - Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. <sup>2</sup> And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her. <sup>3</sup> His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman. <sup>4</sup> So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this young woman as a wife.” <sup>5</sup> And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came.

<sup>6</sup> Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. <sup>7</sup> And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *it*; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, a thing which ought not to be done. <sup>8</sup> But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. <sup>9</sup> And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves. <sup>10</sup> So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it.”

<sup>11</sup> Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, “Let me find favour in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. <sup>12</sup> Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife.” <sup>13</sup> But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. <sup>14</sup> And they said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that *would be* a reproach to us. <sup>15</sup> But on this *condition* we will consent to you: If you will become as we *are*, if every male of you is circumcised, <sup>16</sup> then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your

daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. <sup>17</sup> But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone.”

<sup>18</sup> And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor’s son. <sup>19</sup> So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. He *was* more honourable than all the household of his father. <sup>20</sup> And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying: <sup>21</sup> “These men *are* at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land *is* large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters. <sup>22</sup> Only on this *condition* will the men consent to dwell with us, to be one people: if every male among us is circumcised as they *are* circumcised. <sup>23</sup> *Will* not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs *be* ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us.” <sup>24</sup> And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son; every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

<sup>25</sup> Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males. <sup>26</sup> And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem’s house, and went out. <sup>27</sup> The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled. <sup>28</sup> They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what *was* in the city and what *was* in the field, <sup>29</sup> and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that *was* in the houses.

<sup>30</sup> Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I *am* few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I.”

<sup>31</sup> But they said, “Should he treat our sister like a harlot?”

### **Background information:**

Jacob was coming out of Paddan-Aram to the land where his father had lived. On his way, he had to made peace with Esau, his brother and built Succoth ([Genesis 34:17](#)) – booths before entering the land of Shechem. Jacob bought a piece of land from the Hivite (Hamor) and pitched his tent before the city ([Genesis 34:18,19](#)). They had no connection with the people of Shechem – the Hivites. They have a custom of erecting an altar for God in that place before

dwelling in that place. Jacob did the same and named it El-Elohe-Israel (God the mighty God of Israel).

Dinah was born to Leah and had 6 elder brothers and 6 younger brothers in total. Dinah who was a young woman went out to the city to see her friends – daughters of the Hivites. She must have known very well that she should have no association with the outsiders or strangers or foreigners. As she was young and beautiful, her desire to have those foreign associations led her into a great disaster. She caught attention of the prince of the Hivite, Shechem, the son of Hamor. He took her and defiled her. His love for her was so deep that he wanted to marry her and he told his father, Hamor.

But when Jacob heard about his daughter, he kept silent until his sons returned back home from the field. They got angry once they knew about their sister being defiled. Hamor and Shechem came forward to them asking for the marriage of Dinah. Jacob and his sons laid one condition to them: all the males should be circumcised or it becomes a disgrace to give or take daughters amongst them. So, Hamor and Shechem agreed to their condition and all the males got circumcised.

Simeon and Levi were still burning with anger for what happened to their sister. So, on the third day, when the Hivites were in pain due to the circumcision, they went and killed all the males. They brought Dinah back from Shechem's house and also plundered the whole city in revenge for defiling their sister. But, Jacob didn't approve this and was troubled.

### **Lessons from Dinah:**

- A bad association spoil useful habit says Proverbs. In this case, Dinah not only disobeyed her parents, she brought disgrace to herself as well as family.
- Her desire to get along with her foreign friends wasn't a sin but the desire of getting to see her foreign friends led her captive into sin and thereby extended to her family members (murder).
- Each person should think well in advance about the consequences that they and their family have to face when going against God's will.
- From the above account of Dinah, its clear that one action led to the another – her desire led to defile her; her defilement led to disgrace in the



family; the disgrace led to anger; anger led to murder; So **James 1:14,15** states, desire led to sin and sin leads to death.

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*GAL220 Ministries*

*Gal220Ministries.org & [XpressChrist@gmail.com](mailto:XpressChrist@gmail.com)*