



Rape of Dinah

Issues to Ponder

- I. What is the meaning or point of this story?
- II. What crime(s) were committed?
- III. Who was to blame for raping Dinah?
 - A. Dinah?
 - B. Shechem son of Hamor?
 - C. Shechem (the people)?
- IV. Why did Jacob agree to marriage as the remedy?
 - A. Does the punishment fit the crime?
 - B. Does this align with Deuteronomy 22:28-29? Or not?
- V. Did Levi and Simeon do wrong?
 - A. What sort of men are Levi and Simeon?
 - B. Did the punishment fit the crime?
 - C. Were they the only ones?
 - D. What were the consequences?
- VI. What is Jacob's attitude about all the events?

Dinah Raped

Genesis 34:1-7 [ESV]

¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. ² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. ³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this girl for my wife." ⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. ⁶ And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. ⁷ The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

Shechem Asks for Dinah

Genesis 34:8-12 [ESV]

⁸ But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife. ⁹ Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. ¹⁰ You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it." ¹¹ Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. ¹² Ask me for as great a bride price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife."

Sons of Jacob Deal Deceitfully

Genesis 34:13-21 [ESV]

¹³The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. ¹⁴They said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. ¹⁵Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. ¹⁶Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. ¹⁷But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone.” ¹⁸Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor’s son Shechem. ¹⁹And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father’s house. ²⁰So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, ²¹“These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters.

Men of Shechem Circumcised

Genesis 34:22-24 [ESV]

²²Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people—when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. ²³Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us.” ²⁴And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

Sons of Jacob Rape Shechem

Genesis 34:25-31 [ESV]

²⁵ On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away. ²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered. ³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household." ³¹ But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

Defiling of Dinah

Structure

- I. Scene 1:
 - A. Shechem rapes Dinah and seeks to marry her (1-4)
 - B. Speech to father: "Get this child for me to marry" (4)
- II. Scene 2:
 - A. Hamor and Shechem propose a marriage alliance with Jacob's family (5-19)
 - B. Hamor's speech (8-10)
 - C. Shechem's speech (11-12)
 - D. Jacob's sons' speech (14-17)
 - E. Hamor and Shechem consent (18-19)
- III. Scene 3:
 - A. Hamor and Shechem put terms for marriage alliance to townsfolk (20-24)
 - B. Hamor and Shechem speak (21-23)
 - C. Townsfolk consent (24)
- IV. Scene 4:
 - A. Jacob's sons rape the town
 - B. Speech to father: "Should he treat our sister as a prostitute?" (31)

Leah and Her Children I

Genesis 29:31-35 [ESV]

³¹ When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³² And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." ³³ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. ³⁴ Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. ³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

Leah and Her Children II

Genesis 30:14-21 [ESV]

¹⁴ In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." ¹⁵ But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes." ¹⁶ When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah *went out* to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night. ¹⁷ And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸ Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar. ¹⁹ And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. ²¹ Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah.

Was Dinah to Blame?

Genesis 34:1-7 [ESV]

¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, **went out** to see the women of the land. ² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and **[laid]*** her and humiliated her. ... ⁷ ... he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

*Note: ESV "laid with her" is probably not correct since this is likely a forceful act.

- I. Leah "went out" to allure Jacob (30:16), and here Dinah is very possibly copying her mother's example.
 - A. Term "went out" suggests Dinah's imprudence and possibly impropriety.
 - B. In LH 141 this cognate Akkadian verb describes a housewife who conducts herself improperly outside her home.
 - C. Targums translate "cult prostitute" as "one who goes out in the countryside."

Tamar Raped

2 Samuel 13:7-14 [ESV]

⁷ Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him." ⁸ So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. ⁹ And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him. ¹⁰ Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. ¹¹ But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." ¹² She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. ¹³ As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." ¹⁴ But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.

Tamar Rejected

2 Samuel 13:15-22 [ESV]

¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" ¹⁶ But she said to him, "***No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me.***" But he would not listen to her. ¹⁷ He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her." ¹⁸ Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. ¹⁹ And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went. ²⁰ And her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house. ²¹ When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. ²² But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar.

Tamar and Dinah Narratives Comparison

- | I. Similarities | I. Differences |
|--|--|
| A. Both women virgins | A. Before the attack |
| B. Both women raped | 1. Very likely that Tamar loved Amnon |
| C. Both women disgraced | 2. Not impossible that Dinah had some affections for Shechem |
| D. Father apparently knows or finds out about it | B. After the attack |
| 1. Angry | 1. Shechem loves Dinah |
| 2. Does nothing | 2. Amnon hates Tamar |
| E. Brother(s) deals deceitfully with the perpetrator | C. Perpetrator |
| F. Perpetrator ultimately killed at the hand of the brother(s) | 1. Dinah kept |
| | a. Shechem desires to marry |
| | 2. Tamar rejected |
| | a. Amnon has no intention |

Key Question: Is Shechem repentant?

Deuteronomic Law

Deuteronomy 22:23-29 [NIV]

²³ “If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, ²⁴ then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor’s wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. ²⁵ “But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man **seizes her and lies with her**, then only the man who lay with her shall die. ²⁶ But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbor, ²⁷ because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her. ²⁸ “If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and **seizes her and lies with her**, and they are found, ²⁹ then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.

Deuteronomic Law Revisited

Exodus 22:16-17 [ESV]

¹⁶ “If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged to be married and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife. ¹⁷ If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money equal to the bride-price for virgins.

- I. In many cases, bride price probably equal to 50 shekels
 - A. Male slaves valued at approximately 50 shekels (Lev 27:3)
 - B. Female slaves valued at approximately 30 shekels (Lev 27:4)
- II. Why the bride price?
 - A. Seems to infer that money can provide reparations
- III. Is rape a capital offense?
 - A. Betrothed/Married - Yes
 - B. Unmarried - ???

Simeon and Levi

Genesis 34:25-31 [ESV]

²⁵ On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away. ²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered. ³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household." ³¹ But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

Simeon and Levi - Judgment

Genesis 49:5-7 [ESV]

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. 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.

Sons of Jacob

Genesis 34:7,13-17,27-29 [ESV]

⁷ The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

¹³ The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. ¹⁴ They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. ¹⁵ *Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised.* ¹⁶ *Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people.* ¹⁷ But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone."

²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.

Why Circumcision?

Genesis 34:15 [ESV]

1. Then we will give our daughters to you, and,
2. We will take your daughters to ourselves, and
3. We will dwell with you and become one people.

Hamor and Shechem also add: "will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours?"

What is terribly wrong with this picture?

Jacob

Genesis 34:5,30-31 [ESV]

⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came.

...

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household.”

...

³¹ But they said, “Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?”

Shechem Repentant?

Genesis 34:1-7 [ESV]

² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. ³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this girl for my wife.”

...

¹¹ Shechem also said to her father [Jacob] and to her brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. ¹² Ask me for as great a bride price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife.”

...

¹⁹ And the young man [Shechem] did not delay to do the thing [circumcision], because he delighted in Jacob’s daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father’s house.

Who Loved Dinah?

- I. Dinah's Brothers?
 - A. Not within the definition of love we established.
 - B. Blasphemed the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - C. Probably more an issue of honor.
- II. Sons of Jacob?
 - A. Not within the definition of love we established.
 - B. Blasphemed the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - C. Exploited the incident and raped Shechem... taking their property, women, and children!
- III. Jacob?
 - A. Not within the definition of love we established.
 - B. Motivated more by fear than love.
 - C. Dinah was the daughter of the unloved wife.
- IV. Dinah herself? Possibly not...
 - A. He/She who sins sexually sins against his/her own body...
- V. Shechem
 - A. Yes, the text says so.
 - B. Striking the rapist love the girl far more than her own family!
 - 1. What does this say about Jacob and his sons?
 - 2. What does this say about polygamy?
 - 3. What does it mean today?