Genesis 34-39 NRSVUE

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**The Rape of Dinah**

**34**Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the region. **2**When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the region, saw her, he seized her and lay with her by force. **3**And his soul was drawn to Dinah 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 to be my wife.”

**5**Now Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter Dinah, but his sons were with his cattle 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**just as the sons of Jacob came in from the field. When they heard of it, the men were indignant and very angry, because he had committed an outrage in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.

**8**But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The heart of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. **9**Make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. **10**You shall live with us, and the land shall be open to you; live and trade in it and get property in it.” **11**Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, “Let me find favor with you, and whatever you say to me I will give. **12**Put the marriage present and gift as high as you like, and I will give whatever you ask me; only give me the young woman to be my wife.”

**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 consent to you: that you will become as we are and every male among you be circumcised. **16**Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live among you and become one people. **17**But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone.”

**18**Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor’s son Shechem. **19**And the young man did not delay to do the thing because he was delighted with Jacob’s daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his family. **20**So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, **21**“These people are friendly with us; let them live in the land and trade in it, for the land is large enough for them; let us take their daughters in marriage, and let us give them our daughters. **22**Only on this condition will they agree to live among us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised. **23**Will not their livestock, their property, and all their animals be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will live among us.” **24**And all who went out of the city gate heeded Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

**Dinah’s Brothers Avenge Their Sister**

**25**On the third day, when they were still in pain, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, took their swords and came against the city unawares 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**And the other sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city because their sister had been defiled. **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 made their prey. **30**Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me odious 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 our sister be treated like a prostitute?”

**Jacob Returns to Bethel**

**35**God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel, and settle there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” **2**So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your clothes; **3**then come, let us go up to Bethel, that I may make an altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” **4**So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had and the rings that were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak that was near Shechem.

**5**As they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities all around them, so that no one pursued them. **6**Jacob came to Luz, that is, Bethel, which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, **7**and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because it was there that God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. **8**And Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So it was called Allon-bacuth. (Oak of Weeping)

**9**God appeared to Jacob **again when he came from Paddan-aram**, and he blessed him. **10**God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he was called Israel. **11**God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. **12**The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.” **13**Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him. **14**Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. **15**So Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

**The Birth of Benjamin and the Death of Rachel**

**16Then they journeyed from Bethel**, and when they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel was in childbirth, and she had hard labor. **17**When she was in her hard labor, the midwife said to her, “Do not be afraid, for now you have another son.” **18**As her soul was departing, for she was dying, she named him Ben-oni, but his father called him Benjamin. **19**And Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath, that is, Bethlehem, **20**and Jacob set up a pillar at her grave; it is the pillar of Rachel’s tomb, which is there to this day. **21**Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

**22**While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine, and Israel heard of it.

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve. **23**The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob’s firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. **24**The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. **25**The sons of Bilhah, Rachel’s maid: Dan and Naphtali. **26**The sons of Zilpah, Leah’s maid: Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

**The Death of Isaac**

**27**Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac had resided as aliens. **28**Now the days of Isaac were one hundred eighty years. **29**And Isaac breathed his last; he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days, and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

**Esau’s Descendants**

**36 These are the descendants of Esau, that is, Edom**. **2**Esau took his wives from the Canaanites: Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite, Oholibamah daughter of Anah son of Zibeon the Hivite, **3**and Basemath, Ishmael’s daughter, sister of Nebaioth. **4**Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau; Basemath bore Reuel; **5**and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

**6**Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the members of his household, his cattle, all his livestock, and all the property he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and he moved to a land some distance from his brother Jacob. **7**For their possessions were too great for them to live together; the land where they were staying could not support them because of their livestock. **8**So Esau settled in the hill country of Seir; Esau is Edom.

**9**These are the descendants of Esau, ancestor of the Edomites, in the hill country of Seir. **10**These are the names of Esau’s sons: Eliphaz, the son of Adah the wife of Esau; Reuel, the son of Esau’s wife Basemath. **11**The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz. **12**Timna was a concubine of Eliphaz, Esau’s son; she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau’s wife. **13**These were the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau’s wife. **14**These were the sons of Esau’s wife Oholibamah, daughter of Anah son of Zibeon; she bore to Esau Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

**Clans and Kings of Edom**

**15**These are the clans of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz the firstborn of Esau: the clans Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz, **16**Korah, Gatam, and Amalek; these are the clans of Eliphaz in the land of Edom; they are the sons of Adah. **17**These are the sons of Esau’s son Reuel: the clans Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah; these are the clans of Reuel in the land of Edom; they are the sons of Esau’s wife Basemath. **18**These are the sons of Esau’s wife Oholibamah: the clans Jeush, Jalam, and Korah; these are the clans born of Esau’s wife Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah. **19**These are the sons of Esau, that is, Edom, and these are their clans.

**20**These are the sons of Seir the Horite, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, **21**Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan; these are the clans of the Horites, the sons of Seir in the land of Edom. **22**The sons of Lotan were Hori and Heman, and Lotan’s sister was Timna. **23**These are the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. **24**These are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah; he is the Anah who found the springs in the wilderness as he pastured the donkeys of his father Zibeon. **25**These are the children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah daughter of Anah. **26**These are the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran. **27**These are the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. **28**These are the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran. **29**These are the clans of the Horites: the clans Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, **30**Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan; these are the clans of the Horites, clan by clan in the land of Seir.

**31**These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the Israelites. **32**Bela son of Beor reigned in Edom, the name of his city being Dinhabah. **33**Bela died, and Jobab son of Zerah of Bozrah succeeded him as king. **34**Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites succeeded him as king. **35**Husham died, and Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, succeeded him as king, the name of his city being Avith. **36**Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah succeeded him as king. **37**Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth on the Euphrates succeeded him as king. **38**Shaul died, and Baal-hanan son of Achbor succeeded him as king. **39**Baal-hanan son of Achbor died, and Hadar succeeded him as king, the name of his city being Pau; his wife’s name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, daughter of Me-zahab.

**40**These are the names of the clans of Esau, according to their families and their localities by their names: the clans Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, **41**Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, **42**Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, **43**Magdiel, and Iram; these are the clans of Edom, that is, Esau, the father of Edom, according to their settlements in the land that they held.

**Joseph Dreams of Greatness**

**37**Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. **2These are the descendants of Jacob.**

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. **3**Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. **4**But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

**5**Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. **6**He said to them, “Listen to this dream that I dreamed. **7**There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” **8**His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

**9**He had another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” **10**But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?” **11**So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

**Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers**

**12**Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem. **13**And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” He answered, “Here I am.” **14**So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, **15**and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” **16**“I am seeking my brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” **17**The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’ ” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. **18**They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. **19**They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. **20**Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” **21**But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” **22**Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. **23**So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, **24**and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

**25**Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. **26**Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? **27**Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. **28**When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

**29**When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes. **30**He returned to his brothers and said, “The boy is gone, and I, where can I turn?” **31**Then they took Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. **32**They had the ornamented robe taken to their father, and they said, “This we have found; see now whether it is your son’s robe or not.” **33**He recognized it and said, “It is my son’s robe! A wild animal has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces.” **34**Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. **35**All his sons and all his daughters sought to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” Thus his father bewailed him. **36**Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.

**Judah and Tamar**

**38**It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and settled near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. **2**There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; he married her and went in to her. **3**She conceived and bore a son, and he named him Er. **4**Again she conceived and bore a son whom she named Onan. **5**Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. She was in Chezib when she bore him. **6**Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn; her name was Tamar. **7**But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death. **8**Then Judah said to Onan, “Go in to your brother’s wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother.” **9**But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother’s wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. **10**What he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also. **11**Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “Remain a widow in your father’s house until my son Shelah grows up,” for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father’s house.

**12**In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua’s daughter, died; when Judah’s time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. **13**When Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,” **14**she put off her widow’s garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. **15**When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. **16**He went over to her at the roadside and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” **17**He answered, “I will send you a kid from the flock.” And she said, “Only if you give me a pledge until you send it.” **18**He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord and the staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. **19**Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

**20**When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. **21**He asked the townspeople, “Where is the prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?” But they said, “No prostitute has been here.” **22**So he returned to Judah and said, “I have not found her; moreover, the townspeople said, ‘No prostitute has been here.’ ” **23**Judah replied, “Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her.”

**24**About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar has prostituted herself; moreover, she is pregnant as a result of prostitution.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” **25**As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “It was the owner of these who made me pregnant.” And she said, “Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” **26**Then Judah acknowledged them and said, “She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not lie with her again.

**27**When the time of her delivery came, there were twins in her womb. **28**While she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and bound on his hand a crimson thread, saying, “This one came out first.” **29**But just then he drew back his hand and out came his brother, and she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Therefore he was named Perez. **30**Afterward his brother came out with the crimson thread on his hand, and he was named Zerah.

**Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife**

**39**Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. **2**The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. **3**His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. **4**So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. **5**From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. **6**So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and with him there he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. **7**And after a time his master’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.” **8**But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. **9**He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” **10**And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her. **11**One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, **12**she caught hold of his garment, saying, “Lie with me!” But he left his garment in her hand and fled and ran outside. **13**When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, **14**she called out to the members of her household and said to them, “See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice, **15**and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.” **16**Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home, **17**and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me, **18**but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.”

**19**When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, “This is the way your servant treated me,” he became enraged. **20**And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. **21**But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. **22**The chief jailer committed to Joseph’s care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. **23**The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph’s care because the Lord was with him, and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.