

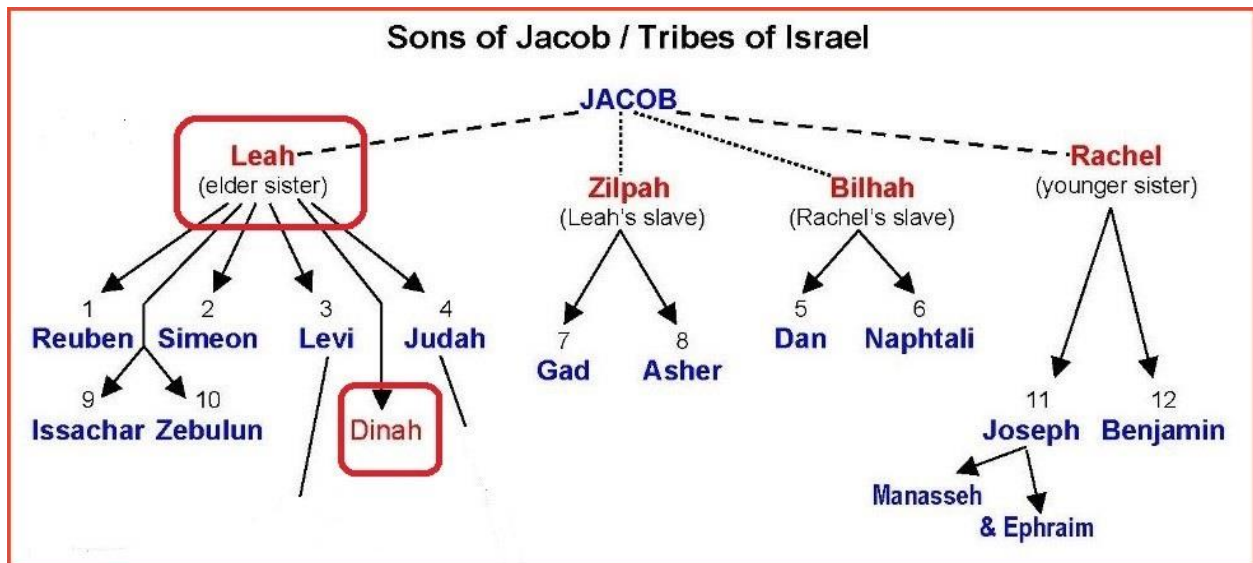
Genesis 34

Verses 1-7

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land. ² When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her and raped her. ³ But he was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife." ⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah; but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob said nothing until they came in. ⁶ Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. ⁷ Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *about it*; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by sleeping with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land

See pic 3405



This was probably an innocent gathering of some young girls. Like the song says, girls just want to have fun.

² When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her and raped her.

Shechem, being the prince of the land, thought he could do as he pleased without suffering any consequences

Surely his dad, the ruler of Shechem, could fix the problem if it came to that

But he was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her. So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this young woman as a wife

From his perspective he was in love because he was attracted to her

And he was willing to take her as a wife

⁷ Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *about it*; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by sleeping with Jacob’s daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.

This was a disgraceful act and the sons of Jacob were very angry

Again this is 300 years before the Law but there is a code of ethics

And the brothers of Dinah probably felt a responsibility to avenge her attacker

Verses 8-12

⁸ But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. ⁹ And intermarry with us; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves. ¹⁰ So you will live with us, and the land shall be open to you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it.” ¹¹ Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, “Let me find favor in your sight, and I will give whatever you tell me. ¹² Demand of me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give whatever you tell me; but give me the girl in marriage.”

Hamor said, the heart of my son Shechem longs for your daughter

This had to infuriate the family of Jacob; you don't rape someone you love

⁹ And intermarry with us; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves.

This covenant may have been possible prior to the rape of Dinah

We have only been told about one daughter up to this point

But Genesis 37:35 affirms that he had more than one

So you will live with us, and the land shall be open to you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it.

Hamor was hiding his real intentions

See Genesis 34:23

Demand of me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give whatever you tell me; but give me the girl in marriage.”

Again, this may have been possible prior to him raping her

But Dinah had been dishonored and an offer of money was a slap in the face

This was not going to turn out well for the prince or the town of Shechem

Verses 13-17

¹³ But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor with deceit, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. ¹⁴ They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, *that is*, give our sister to a man who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. ¹⁵ Only on this *condition* will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you will be circumcised, ¹⁶ then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live with you and become one people. ¹⁷ But if you do not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go."

¹³ But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor with deceit,

Jacob's sons planned to destroy Shechem no matter what the town decided

Only on this *condition* will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you will be circumcised

Some commentators think this was part of the deception but others say if the tribes of Jacob were going to intermarry this would be necessary.

One thing we know for sure, the people complied and they were still killed

But if you do not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go.”

Jacob's sons were putting a difficult demand on Shechem and Hamor

They would have to get all of the men of the community to be in favor of doing this

If the community was going to become one, this demand had to be met

See Genesis 17:10-14

Verses 18-24

¹⁸ Now their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

¹⁹ The young man did not delay to do this, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. Now he was more respected than all the household of his father. ²⁰ So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the people of their city, saying, ²¹ “These men are friendly to us; therefore let them live in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. We will take their daughters in marriage, and give our daughters to them. ²² Only on this *condition* will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised just as they are circumcised. ²³ Will their livestock and their property and all their animals not be ours? Let's just consent to them, and they will live with us.” ²⁴ All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and to his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

¹⁸ Now their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

¹⁹ The young man did not delay to do this, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter

This young man was immature but he loved Dinah enough that this request seemed reasonable

Now he was more respected than all the household of his father. ²⁰ So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the people of their city

Despite his compulsive and immoral decision to take advantage of Dinah he must have had some admirable qualities

²³ Will their livestock and their property and all their animals not be ours?

Hamor said this agreement would be of great value to the townspeople

Was that true?

The same could be said for the people of Israel

They would also inherit the land and possessions of Shechem

What was true for one side was also true for the other side

The people of Shechem accepted the words of their leader without giving it the proper amount of consideration

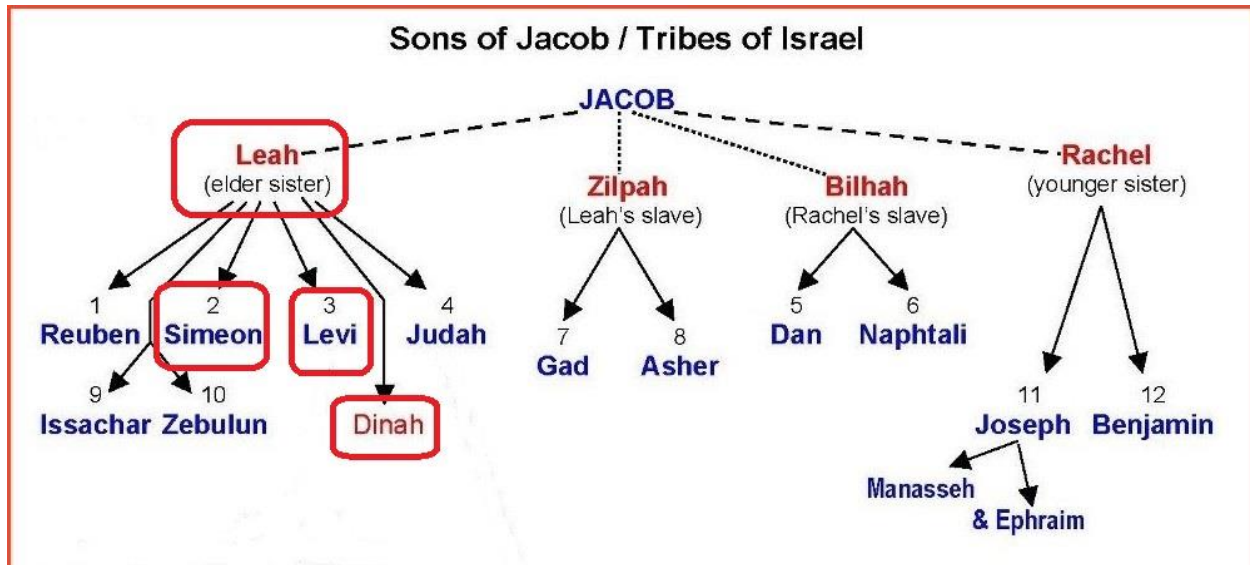
Verses 25-29

²⁵ Now it came about on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of Jacob's sons—Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers—each took his sword and came upon the city undetected, and killed every male. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and left. ²⁷ Jacob's sons came upon those killed and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks, their herds, and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field; ²⁹ and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even everything that was in the houses.

²⁵ Now it came about on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of Jacob's sons—Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers—each took his sword and came upon the city undetected, and killed every male.

Simeon and Levi were children of Leah, so they were her brothers not her half-brothers

See pic 3410



Each took his sword and came upon the city undetected, and killed every male.

Two men would not have been able to kill all the men of this city

So it is reasonable to assume that Simeon and Levi had some assistance

Perhaps many of the servants of Simeon and Levi helped

We should not be surprised that two sons of Jacob (the deceiver) deceived the people of Shechem

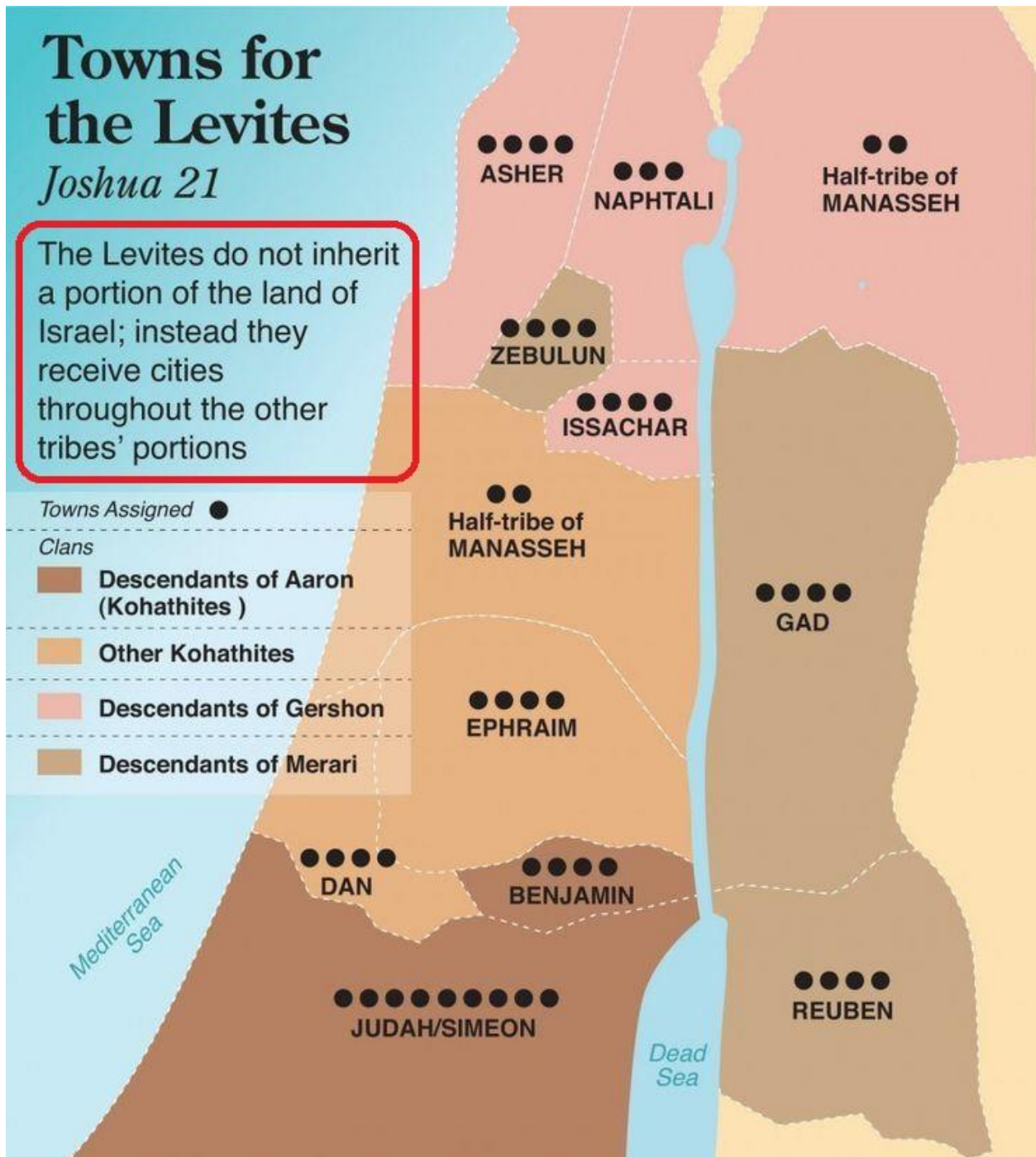
Having said that, God was not pleased with their behavior

See Genesis 49:5 - 7

The Levites were scattered among the 12 tribes of Israel, and the tribe of Simeon was surrounded by the tribe of Judah after Israel took over the Promised Land.

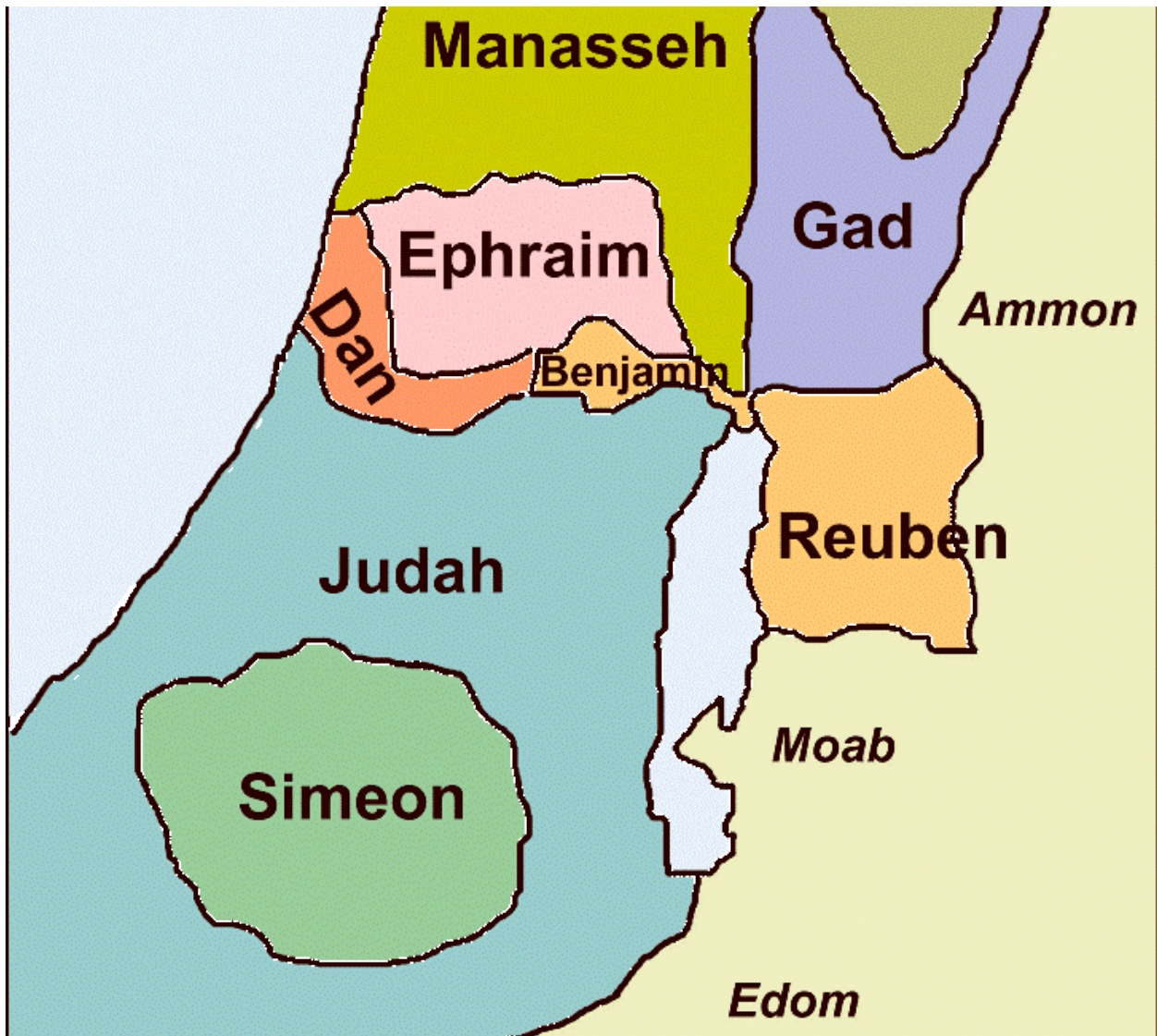
See maps 3415 and 3420

Map 3415



The Levites were scattered throughout the 12 tribes of Israel

Map 3420



The tribe of Simeon was surrounded by the tribe of Judah

²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and left.

Shechem living with Dinah before they were married was probably a big factor in their decision to kill the people of Shechem

Jacob's sons came upon those killed and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister.

The rest of Jacob's sons participated in the looting and plundering of the city

²⁸ They took their flocks, their herds, and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field; ²⁹ and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even everything that was in the houses.

One man was responsible for abusing their sister, not the whole city

Simeon and Levi broke their agreement with the people of Shechem after they had already kept their part of the deal

This is not how people of God should conduct themselves

Verse 30-31

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me repulsive among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since my men are few in number, they will band together against me and attack me, and I will be destroyed, I and my household!" ³¹ But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

You have brought trouble on me by making me repulsive among the inhabitants of the land

Jacob seems to be more concerned about his own personal safety, than the evil that his sons had committed

Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

Yes Shechem did wrong, but that doesn't justify their actions

This whole city suffered for the sin of this one man