

(Genesis) Genesis 34 Introduction

by J. Vernon McGee

Genesis 34 explores the complexities and sins within Jacob's family, emphasizing the need for divine separation from negative influences.

Duration: 3:27

Scripture: Genesis 34:1 - 35:1, Genesis 35:22

Topics: "Family Dynamics", "Sinful Behavior"

Description

In this sermon, the focus is on Jacob and his family, particularly the children of Leah. The speaker highlights the fact that Jacob's family is always full of excitement and events. However, the 34th chapter of Genesis reveals a sad and sordid story involving the children of Leah. This emphasizes the need for Jacob and his family to be separated from the negative influences of Laban's home. The speaker also mentions that all of Leah's sons, including Simeon, Levi, Judah, and Reuben, were involved in sinful behavior. Additionally, the speaker notes that there is a sense of strife and shoddiness that has entered into Jacob's family, which was not present in the families of Abraham and Isaac.

Transcript

Now, if you found your place here in the 34th chapter of Genesis, you recognize that we're still talking about Jacob. A great deal is said about Jacob. He's a very colorful character, and he certainly keeps up the interest.

And in the family that he has, there is one thing that stands out as something is always happening. There's not a dull moment. They continually give us quite a bit of excitement.

And then there are such great spiritual lessons that are here for us. Now we are coming to this, though that is very sad and sordid. The 34th chapter is not a very pretty chapter.

In fact, we have three chapters in the book of Genesis that are not pretty at all. And do you know that they all concern the children of Leah? Leah, the eldest daughter of Laban that was given to Jacob. And I think this gives evidence of the fact that God does not approve plurality of marriages.

The very fact this was forced on Jacob to a certain extent. But that didn't make it right by any means. And we find here that Jacob at least went along with it, and we find here in this section that the children of Leah are all involved in sin.

Now, she had four boys, Simeon and Levi, and also Judah. And in the 35th chapter, we're coming to another one of the sons, and that concerns Reuben, the firstborn. So every one of her sons turned out rather badly, at least sin in their lives.

Now, there is something else to note here. We are dwelling on the families. God is putting an emphasis there.

We've said a great deal about the strife that's in all of these families, but now you notice another element that is entered in, and that is there is a sordidness, there is a shoddiness that has seeped into the family of Jacob that was not in the family of Abraham or Isaac. A great deal of difficulty, and they had problems, but nothing like we have here now. And this again reveals the fact that God wanted to get this man Jacob and his family out from the home of Laban, out from that atmosphere, because of the very atmosphere why that gave the background for these awful sins that are mentioned here.

Now, will you notice as I read this section here, and this man Jacob has stopped here at Shalem, and he has bought him a nice little place out in the suburban area of town, and he is attempting to orient himself with the culture of that day. Well, it wasn't a good place, and God wants to separate this man from that area. And believe me, after you read this chapter, you come to conclusion he better separate him.

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