



**VaYishlach– He Sent Gen. 32:4-36:43**

**Haftarah – Hosea 11:7-12:12**

**B’rit Hadashah- Hebrews 11:11-20**

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**Our Bad Decisions Have Consequences**

### **Parshah Overview:**

**Jacob** returns to the Holy Land after a 20-year stay in Charan, and sends angel-emissaries to **Esau** in hope of a reconciliation, but his messengers report that his brother is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob prepares for **war**, **prays**, and sends Esau a large **gift** (consisting of hundreds of heads of livestock) to appease him.

That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Jabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies **the spirit of Esau**, with whom he wrestles until daybreak. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernal creature, who bestows on him the name **Israel**, which means “he who prevails over the divine.”

Jacob and Esau meet, embrace and **kiss**, but part ways. Jacob purchases a plot of land near **Shechem**, whose crown prince—also called Shechem—abducts and rapes Jacob’s daughter **Dinah**. Dinah’s brothers **Simeon and Levi** avenge the deed by killing all male inhabitants of the city, after rendering them vulnerable by convincing them to circumcise themselves.

Jacob journeys on. **Rachel** dies while giving birth to her second son, **Benjamin**, and is buried in a roadside grave near Bethlehem. **Reuben** loses the birthright because he interferes with his father’s marital life. Jacob arrives in **Hebron**, to his father Isaac, who later dies at age 180. (Rebecca has passed away before Jacob’s arrival.)

Our Parshah concludes with a detailed account of Esau’s wives, children and grandchildren; the family histories of the people of **Seir**, among whom Esau settled; and a list of the **eight kings** who ruled Edom, the land of Esau’s and Seir’s descendants.<sup>1</sup>

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## The Story of Dinah;

**Gen 34:1** Now Dinah, Leah's daughter whom she bore for Jacob, went out to look at the daughters of the land.

Gen 34:2 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.

Gen 34:3 But his soul clung to Dinah, Jacob's daughter, and he loved the young woman and spoke reassuringly to the young woman.

Gen 34:4 So Shechem said to his father Hamor saying, "Get me this girl for a wife."

Gen 34:5 Now Jacob had heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah while his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept quiet until they came in.

Gen 34:6 Meanwhile Shechem's father Hamor went out to Jacob in order to speak with him.

Gen 34:7 Jacob's sons had already come in from the field when they heard, and the men were deeply grieved and furious, because he had committed a vile deed in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, which ought never to be done.

Gen 34:8 But Hamor spoke with them saying, "My son Shechem—he's very attached to your daughter. Please give her to him for a wife.

Gen 34:9 Intermarry with us. You can give your daughters to us, and you can take our daughters for yourselves.

Gen 34:10 You can live with us, and the land will be open to you: live in it, move about freely in it, and settle down in it."

Gen 34:11 Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Would that I find favor in your eyes! Whatever you say to me I'll give.

Gen 34:12 Set the dowry and the presents as high as you like and I'll give whatever you say to me. But give me the young woman as a wife."

Gen 34:13 But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully as they spoke, because he had defiled their sister Dinah.

Dinah's curiosity about these pagan daughters and their lives got the best of her and she wanders into a situation that will have dire consequences for all involved.

**Dinah went to "see".**

**See H7200**

ראַה

râ'âh

### **BDB Definition:**

1) to see, look at, inspect, perceive, consider

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to see

1a2) to see, perceive

1a3) to see, have vision

1a4) to look at, see, regard, look after, see after, learn about, observe, watch, look upon, look out, find out

1a5) to see, observe, consider, look at, give attention to, discern, distinguish

1a6) to look at, gaze at

Here we have an example of how we need to protect what we “see”, look at, regard, learn about, observe, watch etc. the Bible warns us guard our ways. Dinah let her guard down in order to satisfy her curiosity.

Psa 39:1 **For the choir director, for Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.** I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."

We know that she went unprotected by her brothers into a land that did not follow the ways of Adonai. Shechem sees her and wants her and rapes her and causes shame and disgrace to come upon her. After the deed is done, he now wants to marry her and his father goes to Jacob to see if a marriage can be arranged.

The brothers are furious over the disgrace that their sister has been put through and in the end exact their revenge upon all the men in the city.

Here we can see how one bad decision can cause deadly consequences.

The Bible tells us, that as believers we are not to have anything to do with those who do not live according to His ways.

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Eph 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

If Dinah had stayed where she belonged and had not wandered off into enemy territory, none of this would have happened.

The Bible is silent regarding Dinah after this incident except for **Gen 46:15** These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, together with his daughter Dinah; altogether his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three.

Again, our bad decisions have consequences. Many times we think the grass is greener on the other side, but in reality it is a delusion.

We need to walk in the Wisdom of the Ruach, which will guard and protect us from making bad decisions.

## H2451

חכמה

chokmâh

### **BDB Definition:**

1) wisdom

1a) skill (in war)

1b) wisdom (in administration)

1c) shrewdness, wisdom

1d) wisdom, prudence (in religious affairs)

1e) wisdom (ethical and religious)

**Part of Speech:** noun feminine

**A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number:** from [H2449](#)

Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 2:10 for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

Prov 4:7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

Prov 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Prov 10:13 On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

How many times in our lives did we make bad decisions because we failed to ask God for direction and guidance. We failed to ask God if a certain person we want to marry is right for us, if a job is right for us, if a move is right for us. How many ‘If only I had’ have we said to ourselves because of bad decisions. How many times did we compromise our walk, because we were attracted to darkness instead of walking in the Light.

However, the good news is that God can turn our mourning into dancing and our curses into blessings when we turn back to Him. He is the God of new beginnings!

**Deu 28:2** And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Deu 28:3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

Deu 28:4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.

Deu 28:5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

Deu 28:6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Deu 28:7 "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

Deu 28:8 The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Deu 28:9 The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.

Deu 28:10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

Deu 28:11 And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

Deu 28:12 The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

Deu 28:13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them,

Deu 28:14 and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. (ESV)

**Psa 30:11** You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, (ESV)

Psa 30:12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever! (ESV)

**Psa 30:5** For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. (ESV)

**Neh 8:10** Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (ESV)

**1Jn 1:6** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)