

A Heart not Perfect with the LORD – [Psalm 78](#) – [Hebrews 12:6](#) – [Proverbs 22:6](#)

This past week we saw, not only many missiles fired into Israel, but a ruthless band of terrorists from Gaza rape, plunder, and kill - including decapitating babies. This is hard to stomach, and our prayers need to be straight to God concerning this war.

But this type of terrorism is not new. We will read about it today in the book of Genesis - only it will be two of Israel's sons that will perform this ungodly terrorist action against a tribe of the Canaanites. How does this happen? I'm Sure we will find the reason, and how it spreads much too frequently from father to son. This does not occur because of Generational curses, but rather when God's people are disobedient and get complacent with bringing up their children in the nurture and amination of the LORD. ([Romans 1](#)) This is a sure sign of a heart not right with God, ([Psalm 78:37](#)) and it not only affects the sinner, but affects his entire family, but also the people around him.

Introduction and Background

The LORD had conveyed His plan to Abraham, because He knew:

[Genesis 18:17](#) And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

[Genesis 18:18](#) Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

[Genesis 18:19](#) For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

After Calling Abraham, making the Covenant, and guiding Abraham the LORD commanded Abraham:

[Genesis 17:1](#) And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

[Genesis 17:2](#) And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

We will see, illustrated before our eyes today, the meaning of being perfect or not before the LORD. If the parent falls into sin, do the offspring get judged for the father's sin? Each man, each individual, is responsible for his own sin.

The Bible teaches, in the time of Ezekiel, as Israel had taken on a form of psychology or sometimes called generational curses:

[Ezekiel 18:19](#) Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, *and* hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live.

[Ezekiel 18:20](#) **The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

[Ezekiel 18:21](#) **But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live,** he shall not die.

[Ezekiel 18:22](#) All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

But doesn't the actions of the parents effect the right thinking of the offspring?

After teaching the necessary walk of a man and wife, the LORD puts another command on the father:

[Ephesians 5:31](#) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

[Ephesians 5:32](#) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

[Ephesians 5:33](#) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence *her* husband.

[Ephesians 6:1](#) Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

[Ephesians 6:2](#) Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

[Ephesians 6:3](#) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Are the offspring judged for the parent's sin? If you think this sounds like psychology, your right

I. God called and visited Jacob, and Jacob made a vow - Let's begin the narrative:

Genesis 34:1 And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land:

Genesis 34:2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.

Genesis 34:3 And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel.

Genesis 34:4 And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel to wife.

Genesis 34:5 And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come.

I have heard people take the position that Dinah is completely innocent in this entire ordeal. In this study, we will see Dinah's brothers, Simeon and Levi, will be guilty of extreme terror and slaughter without regard to the innocent, as well as, Dinah's desire to learn the evilness of the Canaanites. But I don't think any of this reaches the point of a man of God neglecting his walk with the LORD in complete disobedience.

Before we begin to point blame or exonerate participants in this, let's take a look at Jacob's disobedience after his encounter with Esau.

⇔ Why is Jacob in Shechem?

1. Jacob had followed both Rebekah and Isaac's command to go to Laben's hose to find a wife:

Genesis 28:1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.

Genesis 28:2 Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.

Genesis 28:3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

Genesis 28:4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

Genesis 28:5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padan-aram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother....

Genesis 28:7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padan-aram;

Genesis 28:8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;

2. On the way to Laben's house, Jacob met the LORD and made a vow:

Genesis 28:13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

Genesis 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:15 And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

Genesis 28:16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not.

Genesis 28:17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! this *is* none other but the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven.

Genesis 28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

Genesis 28:19 And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first.

Genesis 28:20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, **If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,**

Genesis 28:21 **So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:**

Genesis 28:22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

3. 20 years later, Jacob obeyed the LORD's command to leave Laben's household:

Genesis 31:1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that *was* our father's; and of *that* which *was* our father's hath he gotten all this glory.

Genesis 31:2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it *was* not toward him as before.

Genesis 31:3 And the LORD said unto Jacob, **Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.**

4. Jacob left with God's favor, as he covenants with Laben and meets Esau, then Jacob does what?

⇔ **Why is Jacob in Shechem?**

Genesis 33:16 So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir.

Genesis 33:17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

Genesis 33:18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which *is* in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan-aram; and pitched his tent before the city.

Genesis 33:19 **And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.**

Genesis 33:20 And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel.

II. Jacob's disobedience & complacency affects not only Jacob, but his family and Canaanites

Why is Jacob in Shechem? He is supposed to go to Hebron! That is Less than 30 miles from Bethel.

Let's take another look at Jacob's vow to God as he was fleeing Esau's hatred:

Genesis 28:20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, **If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,**

Genesis 28:21 **So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:**

Genesis 28:22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

1. Jacob favored one wife above another – He may have walked with God, but this is not good

Genesis 29:29 And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.

Genesis 29:30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and **he loved also Rachel more than Leah**, and served with him yet seven other years.

Will this favoring one over the other could provoke anger between the children of Leah and Rachel?

2. Jacob will openly display favoritism to Racheal's sons over the others – Again, not good

Genesis 37:3 **Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children**, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.

Genesis 37:4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

3. And God gave Joseph two prophetic dreams, his brothers will hate him more:

Genesis 37:8 And his brethren said to him, **Shalt thou indeed reign over us?** or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

Will this favoring one over the other could provoke anger between the children of Leah and Rachel?

4. Yes, they both brought folly in Israel.

Genesis 34:6 And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him.

Genesis 34:7 And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard *it*: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, **because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done.**

5. Hamor, Shechem's father wants to make a marriage agreement for his son with Jacob and his sons

Genesis 34:8 And Hamor communed with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him to wife.

Genesis 34:9 And make ye marriages with us, *and* give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you.

Genesis 34:10 And ye shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade ye therein, and get you possessions therein.

Genesis 34:11 And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give.

Genesis 34:12 Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife.

6. But the sons of Jacob have a devious plan

Genesis 34:13 And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister:

Genesis 34:14 And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that *were* a reproach unto us:

Genesis 34:15 But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we *be*, that every male of you be circumcised;

Genesis 34:16 Then will we give our daughters unto you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.

Genesis 34:17 But if ye will not hearken unto us, to be circumcised; then will we take our daughter, and we will be gone.

7. Hamor and Shechem are pleased – What is on the Canaanites mind?

Genesis 34:18 And their words pleased Hamor, and Shechem Hamor's son.

Genesis 34:19 And the young man deferred not to do the thing, because he had delight in Jacob's daughter: and he *was* more honourable than all the house of his father.

Genesis 34:20 And Hamor and Shechem his son came unto the gate of their city, and communed with the men of their city, saying,

Genesis 34:21 These men *are* peaceable with us; therefore let them dwell in the land, and trade therein; for the land, behold, *it is* large enough for them; let us take their daughters to us for wives, and let us give them our daughters.

Genesis 34:22 Only herein will the men consent unto us for to dwell with us, to be one people, if every male among us be circumcised, as they *are* circumcised.

Genesis 34:23 **Shall not their cattle and their substance and every beast of theirs *be* ours?** only let us consent unto them, and they will dwell with us.

Genesis 34:24 And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city.

8. And while the Canaanites were recovering from their surgery... A terror attack occurs:

Genesis 34:25 And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

Genesis 34:26 And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out.

Genesis 34:27 The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.

Genesis 34:28 They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which *was* in the city, and that which *was* in the field,

Genesis 34:29 And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that *was* in the house.

9. What was on Jacob's mind?

Genesis 34:30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I *being* few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

10. What was Simion and Levis's angry response (Both Leah's children)?

Genesis 34:31 And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?

11. Throughout the entire ordeal what is on Jacob's mind? Is it Dinah or his twelve sons?

Genesis 34:30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, **Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites:** and I *being* few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

The supplanter who had a spectacular experience with God and consequently learned to walk with God and live righteously has slipped into disobedience and self-centered pity. His daughter has been lured by the outside world and his sons are murdering terrorists! Are the Canaanite tribes going to destroy Jacob's family? He has walked away from God and his entire family is on the hit list of the Canaanites. There are consequences for walking away from God.

III. Jacob's Disobedience and complacency brings a heart not right with God

1. Sin and disobedience does not only affect the disobedient sinner – We can be religious and think we are serving God while in disobedience, and God will judge this – Here is an example:

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations.

Romans 14:2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

Romans 14:3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

Romans 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Romans 14:6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth *it* unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard *it*. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Romans 14:7 **For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.**

Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

2. Did you know that sin can be taught – Kids can learn sin from their parents – Look at King Hezekiah:

II Chronicles 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.

II Chronicles 30:2 For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month.

II Chronicles 30:3 For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.

II Chronicles 30:4 And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation.

II Chronicles 30:5 So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done *it* of a long *time in such sort* as it was written.

II Chronicles 30:6 So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.

II Chronicles 30:7 And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, *who* therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.

II Chronicles 30:8 Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers *were*, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

II Chronicles 30:9 For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn away *his* face from you, if ye return unto him.

3. Steven, in his final message before being stoned for preaching God's Word admonished the Jews:

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: *as your fathers did, so do ye.*

Acts 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Acts 7:53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*.

4. The LORD spoke to the returnees from Babylon with a message about their fathers and their sin:

Zechariah 1:1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

Zechariah 1:2 The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers.

Zechariah 1:3 Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 1:4 Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and *from your evil doings*: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 1:5 Your fathers, where *are* they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?

Zechariah 1:6 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

IV. God will have a talk with Jacob: ([Proverbs 3.12](#); [Hebrews 12.6](#))

Genesis 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Beth-el, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

1. Now, Jacob will obey

Genesis 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that *were* with him, Put away the strange gods that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

Genesis 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

2. Jacob's family will obey

Genesis 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which *were* in their hand, and *all their* earrings which *were* in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which *was* by Shechem.

3. God protects His people – Why?

Genesis 35:5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that *were* round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

Genesis 35:6 So Jacob came to Luz, which *is* in the land of Canaan, that *is*, Beth-el, he and all the people that *were* with him.

4. The now obedient Israel worships God – not idols

Genesis 35:7 And he built there an altar, and called the place El-beth-el: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.

Genesis 35:8 But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Beth-el under an oak: and the name of it was called Allon-bachuth.

5. A re-iteration of God's Covenant with Israel

Genesis 35:9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padan-aram, and blessed him.

Genesis 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name *is* Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

Genesis 35:11 And God said unto him, I *am* God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

Genesis 35:12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

Genesis 35:13 And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.

Genesis 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, *even* a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.

Genesis 35:15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Beth-el.

V. Israel has attempted to destroy themselves, but God has a plan –

Rachel dies and the 12th son is born

Genesis 35:16 And they journeyed from Beth-el; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

Genesis 35:17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.

Genesis 35:18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin.

Genesis 35:19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Beth-lehem.

Genesis 35:20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that *is* the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.