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Jacob's Disobedience at Shechem
33: 18-20

Jacob's disobedience at Shechem DIG: Instead of immediately returning to Bethel as God had commanded (31:3,13), Jacob lingered at the city of Shechem. How did this put his family needlessly at risk?

REFLECT: Whether it has been your sinful cravings, the lust of your eyes, or the boasting of what you have and do (First John 2:16), when have you stopped to linger in your life? How do you catch yourself or get out of that trap before it's too late?

Jacob probably stayed longer in Succoth than **he** had originally planned, but **he** eventually moved on and **arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan.** It was not very far from **Succoth**, directly west of the **Jabbok** River and about twenty miles from the River Jordan. **God** had said that **He would be with Ya'akov (28:15, 31:3), and** the fact that **he arrived safely** back **in Canaan** was the fulfillment of that promise. According to the Canaanite society of that day **he** was a non-citizen, so **he camped within sight of the city (33:18).**

For a hundred pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the

father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent (33:19). God had promised **him** the whole Promised Land, but this was the only part that **Jacob** actually owned. The land was excellent for **his** flocks and herds to graze. In addition, **he** dug a well that became known as the well of **Sychar (John 4:6, 11-12).** Years later, this was where the bones of Joseph would be reburied **(Joshua 24:32)**. **Shechem** became an important city in biblical history. Located on Mount Gerizim, it would later become the territory of the tribe of Ephraim. It was very close to the city of Samaria, which became the capital of the northern kingdom of **Isra'el**. When **Jacob** arrived there, **the city** was controlled by the Hivites, a Canaanite tribe, which was ruled by a man named **Hamor. He** had a son named **Shechem**, which **the city** was eventually named after. Although the text does not mention it, **Ya'akov** must have visited Isaac and Esau several times during **his** stay in **Shechem**.[517]

There Jacob set up an altar and called it El Elohei Isra'el, literally meaning *God, the God of Israel* **(33:20).** This was the first use of **his** new name. But **God** didn't want the **altar** in **Shechem**; **He** wanted it in Bethel, as we shall see shortly.

*Awesome **God**, thank You for revealing **Yourself** to **Your** people, **Isra'el**. Thank **You** for continuing to reveal **Yourself** to all who call upon **Your** name*.