Genesis 34, 35 & 36 - Questions

In these chapters we’re going to wrap up the story of Jacob - these chapters finish up the Bible’s emphasis on Jacob, and from here on out we follow the lives of the 12 sons of Jacob.

There are shameful things to be seen in this family history - and chapter 34 is one of the worst.

In Chapter 35 Jacob finally arrives where God has been telling him to go, and he and his brother, Esau, share the heartache of burying their father, Isaac.

Chapter 36 chronicles the family of Esau, who were eventually called the Edomites. At least some from this family grew up hating the family of Jacob (the Israelites). In fact, in the story of Esther, we see that wicked Haman is a descendant of Esau through his son, Amalek. (Genesis 36:16, I Samuel 15, Esther 3:1...Agagites were from the family of Amalek)

Chapter 34 begins in Shechem.
1. :1 Dinah was a daughter of Jacob by which mother? Were there other daughters of Jacob?
2. :2-4 What happens to Dinah? Was this a violent act? Do you think Shechem was just doing what everyone else in his culture did? So, was it wrong?
3. :5 What is Jacob waiting for?
4. :6&7 How did the 11 sons of Jacob feel about what had happened to Dinah?
5. :8-12 Did Shechem and his father, Hamor seem to be trying to be reasonable?
6. :13-17 What do the 11 brothers suggest, and are they being genuine? Why are they still so angry when Shechem and Hamor are suggesting marriage?
7. What is the truly despicable thing that has happened here? How would we handle such a situation today?
8. :18&19 Did Shechem actually love Dinah?
9. :20-24 Are the men of Shechem actually committing to be believers in the One, True God?
10. :25-29 What did two of the brothers of Dinah do, and was this wrong? Which brothers did this? Do you think they all agreed to it?
11. :30&31 What was Jacob concerned about? What were his sons concerned about? Who was right and who was wrong?

In Chapter 35 Jacob is finally going where God had always wanted him to go - Bethel, the place where he had first met God (Jacob's ladder) (Gen. 28)
12. 35:1 Have you ever been in what seemed like the wrong place and finally made it to what felt like home?

13. :2-4 What had happened in the family of Jacob as they stayed in Shechem?

14. :5-7 How did the inhabitants of the land view the family of Jacob?

15. :9-15 What new thing happens in this latest encounter between Jacob and his God?

16. :16-29 What things happen to the family of Jacob now that they are in the right place? What does that show you about trouble in this life?

17. **Chapter 36 gives us the history of Esau.** Why is he important in God’s plan?

18. Where do we see the family of Esau again in Bible history?
   - Exodus 17:8-16
   - Esther 3:1

Esau was important to the One, True God, but he was a rebel who (as far as we know) never bowed his knee to Him. He never did acknowledge his failure and need of God. And his family passed on hatred and cruelty as their heritage.

Jacob was important to the One, True God, and though he was a failure and a sinner in many ways, he did bow his knee to the One, True God. He did acknowledge his failure and his need of God. His family also passed on failures and sin...but also love and mercy and faith and hope as their heritage.

There’s a pretty obvious conclusion here for us.