



## The Chart

The Covenant promises were passed from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob, and then to the sons of Jacob/Israel, shown here with the mothers to whom each was born.

## Revenging the Defilement of Dinah

As we near the end of Jacob's story in the Bible we find a man who has become negligent in his husband / father role. Jacob was found to remain silent as Levi and Simeon conspired and implemented their snare on Hamor and the people of Shechem. Shear revenge motivated the brothers.

Time and time again the Bible reminds Christians that revenge belongs to and is the exclusive right of God. In fact, Psa. 94:1 proclaims that vengeance is one of the supreme traits of God. This reveals the thought that God alone can and will execute absolute perfect and just vengeance. Man has neither perfect justice nor the right to pass such judgement on any person.

In Romans Chapter Twelve Christians are given a list of characteristics that mix together to form Christian living.

9 Let love be genuine.

Abhor what is evil;

hold fast to what is good.

10 Love one another with brotherly affection.

Outdo one another in showing honor.



11 Do not be slothful in zeal,

*be fervent in spirit,*

*serve the Lord.*

12 Rejoice in hope,

*be patient in tribulation,*

*be constant in prayer.*

13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice,

*weep with those who weep.*

16 Live in harmony with one another.

*Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.*

*Never be wise in your own sight.*

Quite a list, right? Many of those who profess Christianity as their guide to living do not reflect the tenants of the foregoing. However, as it is said on your favorite sale commercials, BUT WAIT! No I will not double the offer, but God is not finished speaking to His people. The paragraph continues:

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him;

*if he is thirsty, give him something to drink;*

*EEEEEEK..... We can, with A LOT of self-control, learn to curtail the "repayment" of evil for evil. One can likewise, as much as possible get along with others or at least do our part as it says.*

Notice please the sudden contrast. Verse 18 gives the out, "if possible". Verse 19 on the other hand has the command "NEVER" attached to it. Truth is that the original language places the emphasis of the sentence first. Hence, the "never" is predominate in the text. "Never, ever, ever" do something motivated in pure revenge. Instead, leave it to the wrath of God.