

Abstract

Genesis 34 is notorious for its report of the cruel massacre of the males among the Hivites by Simeon and Levi in revenge for the rape of their sister, Dinah, by Schehem the Hivite. The case was difficult to settle because of the *intertribal* problem between the Israelis and the Hivites. To Simeon and Levi the massacre seemed to be the only option.

In this paper I shall consider several possible alternatives and try to find the most desirable one.

Possible choices are as follows: 1. Inaction, 2. Imposition of fine punishment (Deu.22:28-29), 3. Imposition of capital punishment on Shechem (Deu.22:25-26), 4. Imposition of capital punishment on Shechem and Hamor, 5. Imposition of capital punishment (massacre) on the males among the Hivites, 6. Attempt to make the Hivites "the people of God" by persuasion, which, I claim, is the most desirable choice. Lessons from the massacre can teach us how best to settle certain *international* problems.