

Genesis 6:9 - 13 *How can we get rid of violence? Is it simply part of human nature? God tried once to cleanse the world by wiping out all evil people by a flood.*

אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת נֹחַ נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק וְתָמִים הָיָה בְדֹרֹתָיו אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים הִתְהַלֵּךְ־נֹחַ: וַיּוֹלֶד נֹחַ
שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנִים אֶת־שֵׁם אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יָפֶת: וַתִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ
חָמָס: וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְהִנֵּה נִשְׁחָתָה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בֶּשֶׂר אֶת־דַּרְכּוֹ
עַל־הָאָרֶץ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְנֹחַ קֹץ כָּל־בֶּשֶׂר בָּא לִפְנֵי כִּי־מָלְאָה הָאָרֶץ חָמָס מִפְּנֵיהֶם וְהִנְנִי
מִשְׁחִיתָם אֶת־הָאָרֶץ:

9. These are the generations of Noah; Noah was a just man and perfect in his generation, and Noah walked with God.
10. And Noah fathered three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japhet.
11. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.
12. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.
13. And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Exodus 32:19-29 *But do some actions REQUIRE violence to root out greater evil? And who is in a position to judge this?*

וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרַב אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיֵּרָא אֶת־הָעֵגֶל וּמַחֲלֹת וַיַּחַר־אַף מֹשֶׁה וַיִּשְׁלַךְ מִיָּדוֹ אֶת־הַלְּחֹת
וַיִּשְׂבֵּר אֹתָם תַּחַת הַהָר: וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָעֵגֶל אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ וַיִּשְׂרֹף בָּאֵשׁ וַיִּטְחֵן עַד אֲשֶׁר־דָּק וַיִּזֶר
עַל־פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׂק אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן מָה־עָשָׂה לָךְ הָעָם הַזֶּה
כִּי־הִבְאֵת עָלָיו חַטָּאת גְּדֹלָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אַהֲרֹן אֶל־יַחֲרֹ אֵף אֲדֹנָי אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ אֶת־הָעָם כִּי בָרַע
הוּא: וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִי עֲשֵׂה־לָנוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר יִלְכּוּ לִפְנֵינוּ כִּי־זֶה מֹשֶׁה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלֵנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם לֹא יָדַעְנוּ מָה־הָיָה לוֹ: וַאֲמַר לָהֶם לְמִי זֶהב הַתְּפָרְקוּ וַיִּתְּנוּ־לִי וְאֲשַׁלְּכֵהוּ בָאֵשׁ וַיֵּצֵא
הָעֵגֶל הַזֶּה: וַיֵּרָא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הָעָם כִּי פָרַע הוּא כִּי־פָרַעַה אַהֲרֹן לְשִׁמְצָה בְּקַמִּיָּהֶם: וַיַּעֲמֵד
מֹשֶׁה בְּשַׁעַר הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיֹּאמֶר מִי לִיהוָה אֵלָיו וַיִּאֲסָפוּ אֵלָיו כָּל־בְּנֵי לֵוִי: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם כֹּה־אָמַר
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁימוּ אִישׁ־חַרְבּוֹ עַל־יָרְכוֹ עֲבְרוּ וְשׁוּבוּ מִשַּׁעַר לְשַׁעַר בַּמַּחֲנֶה וְהָרְגוּ
אִישׁ־אֶת־אָחִיו וְאִישׁ אֶת־דֹּעֵהוּ וְאִישׁ אֶת־קָרְבוֹ: וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי־לֵוִי כַּדְּבַר מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפַּל מִן־הָעָם
בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כִּשְׁלֹשֶׁת אַלְפֵי אִישׁ: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה מְלֹאוּ יְדֵכֶם הַיּוֹם לַיהוָה כִּי אִישׁ בָּבְנוּ וּבְאָחִיו
וּלְתַת עֲלֵיכֶם הַיּוֹם בְּרָכָה:

19. And it came to pass, as soon as he came near to the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing; and Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets from his hands, and broke them beneath the mount.
20. And he took the calf which they had made, and burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it upon the water, and made the people of Israel drink of it.
21. And Moses said to Aaron, What did this people do to you, that you have brought so great a sin upon them?
22. And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my Lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are set on evil.
23. For they said to me, Make us gods, which shall go before us; and as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what became of him.
24. And I said to them, Whoever has any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me; then I casted it into the fire, and there came out this calf.
25. And when Moses saw that the people were naked; for Aaron had made them naked to their shame among their enemies;
26. Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Eternal One's side? let him come to me. And all the Levites gathered themselves together to him.

27. And he said to them, Thus said the Eternal God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

28. And the Levites did according to the word of Moses; and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

29. For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the Eternal One, every man against his son, and against his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

Genesis 34 - Violence begets violence - How do we stop the cycle?

א וַתֵּצֵא דִינָה בַת־לֵאָה אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְיַעֲקֹב לְרֵאוֹת בְּבָנוֹת הָאָרֶץ: ב וַיֵּרָא אֹתָהּ שָׁכֵם בֶּן־חַמּוֹר
הַחֹי נָשִׂיא הָאָרֶץ וַיִּקַּח אֹתָהּ וַיִּשְׁכַּב אִתָּהּ וַיַּעֲנֶה: ג וַתְּדַבֵּק נַפְשׁוֹ בְּדִינָה בַת־יַעֲקֹב וַיֵּאָהֵב
אֶת־הַנְּעָר וַיְדַבֵּר עַל־לֵב הַנְּעָר: ד וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁכֵם אֶל־חַמּוֹר אָבִיו לֵאמֹר קַח־לִי אֶת־הַיְלִידָה הַזֹּאת
לְאִשָּׁה: ה וַיַּעֲקֹב שָׁמַע כִּי טָמְא אֶת־דִּינָה בִּתּוֹ וּבְנָיו הָיוּ אֶת־מְקַנְהוּ בַשָּׂדֶה וְהַחֲרַשׁ יַעֲקֹב
עַד־בָּאִם: ו וַיֵּצֵא חַמּוֹר אָבִי־שָׁכֵם אֶל־יַעֲקֹב לְדַבֵּר אִתּוֹ: ז וּבְנֵי יַעֲקֹב בָּאוּ מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה כְּשִׁמְעָם
וַיִּתְעַצְבוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיַּחַר לָהֶם מְאֹד כִּי נָבְלָה עָשָׂה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לְשָׁכַב אֶת־בַּת־יַעֲקֹב וְכֵן לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה:
ח וַיְדַבֵּר חַמּוֹר אִתָּם לֵאמֹר שָׁכֵם בְּנֵי חַשְׁקָה נַפְשׁוֹ בְּבַתְּכֶם תָּנוּ נָא אֹתָהּ לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה: ט וְהִתְחַתְּנוּ
אִתְּנוּ בְּנֹתֵיכֶם תִּתְּנוּ־לָנוּ וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵינוּ תִקְחוּ לָכֶם: י וְאִתְּנוּ תִשְׁבוּ וְהָאָרֶץ תִּהְיֶה לְפָנֵיכֶם שָׁבוּ
וּסְחָרוּהָ וְהֶאֱחִזּוּ בָּהּ: יא וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁכֵם אֶל־אָבִיהָ וְאֶל־אֲחִיהָ אֲמַצְא־חֵן בְּעֵינֵיכֶם וְאֲשֶׁר תֹּאמְרוּ
אֵלַי אֲתָנוּ: יב הֲרָבוּ עָלַי מְאֹד מֵהַר וּמִתָּן וְאִתְּנָה כְּאֲשֶׁר תֹּאמְרוּ אֵלַי וּתְנוּ־לִי אֶת־הַנְּעָר לְאִשָּׁה:
יג וַיַּעֲנוּ בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב אֶת־שָׁכֵם וְאֶת־חַמּוֹר אָבִיו בְּמַרְמָה וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֲשֶׁר טָמְא אֶת דִּינָה אַחֲתָם:
יד וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵיהֶם לֹא נוּכַל לַעֲשׂוֹת הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה לְתַת אֶת־אַחֲתָנוּ לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ עָרְלָה
כִּי־חֲרָפָה הוּא לָנוּ: טו אַךְ־בְּזֹאת נֹאוֹת לָכֶם אִם תִּהְיוּ כְּמֹנּוּ לְהַמְלִל לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר: טז וּנְתַנוּ
אֶת־בְּנֹתֵינוּ לָכֶם וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵיכֶם נִקַּח־לָנוּ וַיִּשְׁבְּנוּ אִתְּכֶם וְהֵינּוּ לָעַם אֶחָד: יז וְאִם־לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ
אֲלֵינוּ לְהַמּוֹל וּלְקַחְנוּ אֶת־בְּתָרְנוּ וְהִלְכְנוּ: יח וַיִּיטְבוּ דְבָרֵיהֶם בְּעֵינֵי חַמּוֹר וּבְעֵינֵי שָׁכֵם בֶּן־חַמּוֹר:
יט וְלֹא־אַחַר הַנְּעָר לַעֲשׂוֹת הַדָּבָר כִּי חָפֵץ בְּבַת־יַעֲקֹב וְהוּא נִכְבָּד מִכָּל בֵּית אָבִיו: כ וַיָּבֵא חַמּוֹר
וּשָׁכֵם בָּנוּ אֶל־שַׁעַר עִירָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֶל־אֲנָשֵׁי עִירָם לֵאמֹר: כא הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה שְׁלָמִים הֵם אִתְּנוּ
וַיִּשְׁבוּ בָאָרֶץ וַיִּסְחָרוּ אֹתָהּ וְהָאָרֶץ הִנֵּה רַחֲבַת־יָדַיִם לְפָנֵיהֶם אֶת־בְּנֹתָם נִקַּח־לָנוּ לְנָשִׁים
וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵינוּ נָתַן לָהֶם: כב אַךְ־בְּזֹאת יֵאָתוּ לָנוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְשִׁבְת אִתְּנוּ לְהִיּוֹת לָעַם אֶחָד בְּהַמּוֹל
לָנוּ כָּל־זָכָר כְּאֲשֶׁר הֵם נְמוּלִים: כג מִקְנֵיהֶם וּקְנִינָם וְכָל־בְּהֵמָתָם הֲלוֹא לָנוּ הֵם אַךְ נֹאוֹתָהּ לָהֶם
וַיִּשְׁבוּ אִתְּנוּ: כד וַיִּשְׁמָעוּ אֶל־חַמּוֹר וְאֶל־שָׁכֵם בָּנוּ כָּל־יִצְחָאִי שַׁעַר עִירוֹ וַיִּמְלּוּ כָּל־זָכָר כָּל־יִצְחָאִי
שַׁעַר עִירוֹ: כה וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בְּהִיּוֹתָם כְּאָבִים וַיִּקְחוּ שְׁנֵי־בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב שָׁמְעוֹן וְלוֹי אַחֵי דִינָה
אִישׁ חָרְבוּ וַיָּבֵאוּ עַל־הָעִיר בְּטַח וַיִּהְרְגוּ כָּל־זָכָר: כו וְאֶת־חַמּוֹר וְאֶת־שָׁכֵם בָּנוּ הֲרָגוּ לְפִי־חָרֵב
וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־דִּינָה מִבֵּית שָׁכֵם וַיֵּצְאוּ: כז בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב בָּאוּ עַל־הַחֲלָלִים וַיָּבִאוּ הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר טָמְאוּ
אַחֲוָתָם: כח אֶת־צֹאֲנָם וְאֶת־בְּקָרָם וְאֶת־חֲמֹרֵיהֶם וְאֶת־אֲשֶׁר־בְּעִיר וְאֶת־שָׂדֶה לְקָחוּ:
כט וְאֶת־כָּל־חֵילָם וְאֶת־כָּל־טָפָם וְאֶת־נְשֵׂיהֶם שָׁבוּ וַיָּבִאוּ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר בְּבָיִת: ל וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב
אֶל־שָׁמְעוֹן וְאֶל־לוֹי עֲכָרְתֶּם אֹתִי לְהַבְאִישְׁנִי בִישֵׁב הָאָרֶץ בְּכַנְעֵנִי וּבְפָרְאִי וְאֲנִי מִתִּי מִסָּפָר
וְנֶאֱסָפוּ עָלַי וְהַכּוֹנֵי וְנִשְׁמַדְתִּי אֲנִי וּבֵיתִי: לא וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַכְּזוֹנָה יַעֲשֶׂה אֶת־אַחֲוָתָנוּ: לב

1. And Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.
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.
3. And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl, and spoke kindly to her.
4. And Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, Get me this girl for a wife.

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5. And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter; and his sons were with his cattle in the field; and Jacob held his peace until they came.
6. And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to talk with him.
7. And the sons of Jacob came from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry, because he had done a vile deed in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done.
8. And Hamor talked with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; I beg you give her to him for a wife.
9. And make you marriages with us, and give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for you.
10. And you shall live with us; and the land shall be before you; live and trade in it, and get possessions in it.
11. And Shechem said to her father and to her brothers, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what you shall say to me I will give.
12. Ask me ever so much as dowry and gift, and I will give according as you shall say to me; but give me the girl for a wife.
13. And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister;
14. And they said to them, We can not do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised; for that would be a reproach to us;
15. But in this will we consent to you; If you will be as we are, that every male of you be circumcised;
16. Then will we give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for us, and we will live with you, and we will become one people.
17. But if you will not listen to us, to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone.
18. And their words pleased Hamor, and Shechem Hamor's son.
19. And the young man deferred not to do the thing, because he had delight in Jacob's daughter; and he was more honorable than all the house of his father.
20. And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and talked with the men of their city, saying,
21. These men are peaceable with us; therefore let them live in the land, and trade in it; for the land, behold, is large enough for them; let us take their daughters to us for wives, and let us give them our daughters.
22. Only thus will the men consent to live with us, to be one people; if every male among us is circumcised, as they are circumcised.
23. Shall not their cattle and their wealth and every beast of theirs be ours? only let us consent to them, and they will live with us.
24. And to Hamor and to Shechem his son listened all who went out from the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.
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 brothers, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.
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.
27. The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister.
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,
29. And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and carried off all that was in the houses.
30. And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, You have brought trouble on me to make me odious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and I being few in number, they shall gather together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.
31. And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with a harlot?