

# Numbers 26:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites: and of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites:

## Analysis

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**Of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites: and of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites**—Asriel (אֶשְׂרֵי־אֵל, 'vow of God' or 'upright toward God') and Shechem (שֶׁכֶם, 'shoulder/ridge') carry theological weight. Asriel's name suggests covenant loyalty, while Shechem's connection to the city where Abraham first built an altar (Genesis 12:6) and where Jacob's sons committed massacre (Genesis 34) creates complex typology.

That Manasseh had a Shechemite clan while the city itself sat in Ephraim's territory (Joshua 20:7) illustrates inter-tribal complexity. Shechem became a Levitical city and refuge, site of covenant renewal under Joshua (Joshua 24), and later Jeroboam's first capital. This clan name thus carries both shame (Dinah's violation) and glory (covenant renewal)—Scripture's refusal to whitewash family history.

## Historical Context

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Shechem sat in the strategic pass between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, where Moses commanded blessing and cursing to be proclaimed (Deuteronomy 27). The Shechemites' tribal connection to this pivotal city gave them prominence despite the city's checkered past. Abimelech, Gideon's son, later made Shechem his headquarters (Judges 9).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's redemption of the 'Shechem' name from massacre to covenant site demonstrate His power to redeem our worst family failures?
2. What does the inclusion of clans with morally complex namesakes teach about grace in genealogy and church membership?
3. How might Asriel's name ('vow of God') challenge us to see our family identity as bound by divine oath rather than human achievement?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵל אֲשֵׁרִיָּא ל	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הָאֲשֵׁרִיָּאִים י	וְאֵל כֶּחַם	מִשְׁפַּחַת
<b>And of Asriel</b>	<b>the family</b>	<b>of the Asrielites</b>	<b>and of Shechem</b>	<b>the family</b>
H844	H4940	H845	H7928	H4940

הַשִּׁכְמִי:  
**of the Shechemites**  
H7930