

# Genesis - Lesson 35

Genesis Chapters 35

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Memory verses for this week: ***Psa 104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.***

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as Jacob returns to Bethel. He had hesitated to take his family back to his home with Esau, and spent time in Shechem.

## I. Preparing to Return to Bethel

**Gen 35:1** *And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.*

**Gen 35:2** *Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:*

God gives Jacob a divine command. He could not return to Haran, he could not go to Esau, and he cannot remain in Shechem. When he came to the end of self, the Lord steps in with the solution. So many times it is this way in our lives. We try everything under the sun to deal with a situation, and fail. But God is standing there waiting with the answer to our problem if we would but look up and ask.

God tells Jacob to arise and go up to Bethel and dwell. When he arrives, he was to make there an altar in order that he might worship the Lord. God wanted him to worship, and He wants all of us to live daily to his honor and glory. When we come to church, we need to empty our minds of worldly cares and thoughts, and lift up His name and praise the Lord in worship. As Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well, God desires us to worship Him in total obedience in spirit and truth.

**Joh 4:19** *The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.*

**Joh 4:20** *Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.*

**Joh 4:21** *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

**Joh 4:22** *Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*

**Joh 4:23** *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

**Joh 4:24** *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

As the case in many Christian's lives, Jacob's family had their faults. Their defilement was cleansed by God. They were to turn their back on the strange Gods and were to be cleansed. Verse 2 says they were to change garments and no longer walk in sin. There was to be an outward change.

You have to be a bit skeptical of anyone claiming Jesus as Lord and Savior and the outward appearance never changes. When we are baptized, that is a picture of what happens when we truly are saved. We die to the old man and the fleshly desires, and we raise up to walk in newness of life in the new man. Something is wrong in the picture when there is no new man apparent, and that most likely is due to there never having been salvation in the first place. We can't see the other man's heart to know, but J. Vernon McGee said you can check out the fruits. If no fruits, something is awry.

*Gen 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.*

*Gen 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.*

Jacob's testimony is given in verse 3. Verse 4 tells us that he buried the idols and wisely did not try to convert them to an holy use.

*Gen 35:5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.*

God provided Jacob's family with divine care. They started the journey and the Lord protected them. The people in the land did not pursue after the sons of Jacob because the terror of God was upon the cities.

## **II. Presenting the Events at Bethel**

*Gen 35:6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him.*

*Gen 35:7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.*

As was commanded of God, Jacob was soon building the altar in the place called Luz in the land of Canaan. He brought all of his family and people to Bethel. At this place, he built an altar and named it El-bethel. This means the "God of the House of God."

*Gen 35:8 But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth.*

*Gen 35:9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.*

Rebekah's nurse died there at Bethel, and we are given the details of the burying of Deborah. We do not know why she was with Jacob. Rebekah was Jacob's mother, and

perhaps Rebekah had already died. Rebekah's death is not recorded and this may be because she is the type of the Church, that will not die, but be raptured home to be with the Lord. She was buried by the "oak of weeping."

Verse 9 gives the record of the blessed appearance of God. God appeared to Jacob when he was on his way to Padan-aram.

*Gen 28:12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.*

*Gen 28:13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;*

*Gen 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*

*Gen 28:15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.*

*Gen 28:16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.*

God appeared to him when he came out of Padan-aram. Apparently there was little of faith in the intervening years (perhaps 40 or more years).

*Heb 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*

*Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.*

*Gen 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.*

God reconfirms Jacob's new name which was Israel.

*Gen 35:11 And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;*

*Gen 35:12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.*

*Gen 35:13 And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.*

*Gen 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.*

*Gen 35:15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel.*

God is always with us, and to Jacob He reconfirms His promises. The Lord promises to go up from him and make a mighty nation of him. When Joshua took over for Moses,

God repeated over and over to him in chapter 1 to fear not and to be strong and very courageous. We tend to be weak, but when God fights our battles, we can be very strong.

*Jos 1:5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

*Jos 1:6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.*

*Jos 1:7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

*Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

*Jos 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

The pillar or memorial was erected by Jacob and then a drink offering poured out. The drink-offering was always poured out, and is a type of Christ.

*Num 15:5 And the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering shalt thou prepare with the burnt offering or sacrifice, for one lamb.*

*Num 15:6 Or for a ram, thou shalt prepare for a meat offering two tenth deals of flour mingled with the third part of an hin of oil.*

*Num 15:7 And for a drink offering thou shalt offer the third part of an hin of wine, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.*

The Lord poured out himself as an offering for you and I there on the cross of Calvary.

*Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

### III. Events after Bethel

*Gen 35:16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.*

*Gen 35:17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.*

*Gen 35:18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.*

Rachel was pregnant with her second son, and this caused the death of Rachel. It says that it came to pass that she was in hard labour, and her soul departed in the birth of Benjamin. The came from the "House of God" to the "House of bread." Ephrath is the same town known as Bethlehem. Once the soul is restored to fellowship, it is only a short distance to spiritual nourishment.

There was great travail by Rachel as recorded in verses 16-18. The hard labor led to the birth of a son. His mother named him Ben-oni (son of sorrow), but Jacob named him Benjamin (son of my right hand). In this he is a double-type of Christ. As the "son of sorrow" Christ suffered and died, but as the "son of my right hand" He sits at the right hand of the Father.

*Heb 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

*Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

*Heb 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

*Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

*Heb 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

*Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

*Gen 35:19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.*

*Gen 35:20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.*

*Gen 35:21 And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.*

*Gen 35:22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:*

*Gen 35:23 The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:*

*Gen 35:24 The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin:*

*Gen 35:25 And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali:*

*Gen 35:26 And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.*

Verse 19 gives a record of the death and burial of Rachel the way to Ephrath. Jacob setup a pillar upon her grave which it says remains until this day.

Problems soon came to Jacobs family as we have record of the defilement of Reuben. All 12 sons are listed who are the descendants of Jacob.

Reuben came and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. This was very bad and an incestuous sin of Reuben. Some sins are committed outside of the body, and some with the body. The sexual sins seem to have a greater level of evil about them. This sin was remembered by Jacob in his old age.

*Gen 49:2 Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.*

*Gen 49:3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:*

*Gen 49:4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.*

*Gen 35:27 And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.*

*Gen 35:28 And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.*

*Gen 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.*

Finally Jacob came to his father in Mamre in the city of Arbah in Hebron. Finally Jacob is reunited with his father for a few years, and then we have the record of the death of Isaac. Isaac lived a full and long life and dies at the age of 180. His sons, Esau and Jacob bury him. Jacob had a number of years with his father before Isaac's death.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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