

Genesis 35

Genesis 35.1-8

V1 – God seems to want to restore Jacob’s faith and spirits

-**Message of God?** Go to Bethel and live there and make an altar there

-**What originally took place at Bethel?** *Genesis 28.10-17*

Read Genesis 28.10-17

-Where Jacob first “met” or found God (while Jacob was running away from Esau)

-So Jacob was going back to his “roots” for renewal

V2 – **Instructions of Jacob to his family?** Put away the idols – purify yourselves – change clothes

-**Who was known to have idols?** Rachel (remember that she stole them from her father)

V3 – A beautiful verse

-**What observation does Jacob make about God?** God have been with him for 20-30 years

V4 – **What did the family do?** Gave Jacob all the idols and earrings

-**Significance of earrings?** Apparently good luck charms or signs of paganism

-**What did Jacob do with all this stuff?** Buried it under a tree

-**Why?** So no one else could use it (didn’t sell it at a garage sale)

V5-6 – They all arrived at Bethel – north-northwest of Jerusalem

V7 – Built an altar

-**Name for the place:** El-Bethel (God of Bethel)

V8 – **Who died?** Deborah – nurse of Rebekah

-**Who was Rebekah?** Jacob and Esau’s mother

-*V8* - apparently Rebekah had died and Deborah had gone to Jacob’s family to help

-**Why this note on her death?** They must have grown to love her – a note of affection and sorrow here – the Bible respects all classes of people, even faithful servants

Genesis 35.9-15

V9 – A second “appearance” of God to Jacob to renew the original covenant between them

-**Is there any value in repetition?** Yes

-**What value?** Emphasis and memory

-This is after he had returned from Laban

V10 – **Name change?** Israel

V11 – **Instructions to Jacob?** Multiply (just as God said to Adam and Eve)

-**Did kings come from Jacob?** Saul, David, Solomon, and many others

V12 – **Any land promise?** Yes

V 13 – Same place

V 14 – **How did Jacob commemorate the event?** Pillar of stones – poured oil on it

V 15 – “Renamed” Bethel

Genesis 35.16-22

V 16 – **Will God’s people have to suffer in this life even though they are God’s people?** Yes

- Examples?** Stephen, Apostle Paul, Jesus himself
- What happened to Rachel here?** Severe pain in childbirth

V 17 – **What is a midwife?** Usually older lady who assists in childbirth (in absence of doctor)

- Message of midwife to Rachel?** You have another son
- Who was her first son?** Joseph
- Remember Jacob put Rachel and Joseph last when he approached Esau

V 18 – **What happened to Rachel?** Died

- Before death?** Named the boy Ben-oni – meaning: son of my sorrow
- What did Jacob rename him?** Benjamin (son of my right hand) = good fortune, a blessing (why give a child a sad name)

V 19 – **Where was Rachel buried?** Near Bethlehem (her tomb is still a tourist site there today)

V 20 – **What did Jacob do?** Set up a pillar of stones over her grave site

V 21 – Notice use of “Israel” for Jacob

V 22 – **What happened at the tower of Eder?** Reuben had sex relations with Bilhah (his “step-mother”) = adultery and incest

- Jacob punished him ultimately – *Genesis 49.3-4*
- The motto of the Kennedy family: “Don’t get mad – get even”
- Reuben was ruled out as next leader of the “clan”

Genesis 35.23-29

V 23-26 – Listing of sons according to mothers (not necessary in order of birth)

- Sons of Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar
- Sons of Rachel: Joseph (became 2 tribes) and Benjamin
- Sons of Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali
- Sons of Zilpah: Gad and Asher

V 27 – **Whom did Jacob visit?** His father Isaac

- Under what circumstance had Jacob left Isaac?** Bad circumstances – had tricked his father into

giving him the blessing instead of to Esau
-However, no bitterness is seen here (20+ years later)

V 28 – **How old was Isaac?** 180 years

V 29 – **Who took care of his funeral? Jacob and Esau**

-**What worries might Jacob have had in his mind at the death of his father?** How he had tricked him and who would carry on the covenant after Jacob's death (Reuben and Simeon were becoming very immoral)

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