

GENESIS 35

Revival in Jacob's Life

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KEYWORD

REVERANCE

God (Plural)
God (Singular)
LORD
GOD
Lord
lord
El Olam
Bara
Asah
Beth
Numbers

Elohim (The Trinity)
El
Jehovah & or Yahweh (YHWH)
Jehovah & or Yahweh
GOD the Master (Kurios), Adonai
Man the Master
Everlasting God
God creating from nothing
God making or assembling from existent materials
House

- 1 - Unity between God the Father & His Son Jesus (John 10:30)
- 2 - Represents union, division, and verification
- 3 - Harmony, New Life & completeness (467 times)
- 4 - Creation & The creative ability of God.
- 5 - God's grace, goodness and favor toward humans (318)
- 6 - Imperfection of man and the sin and weakness he has
- 7 - Perfection
- 8 - New beginnings
- 9 - Divine completeness or conveys the meaning of finality (49)
- 10 - God's authority, completeness, order, and divine perfection
- 11 - Disorder, chaos and judgment (11 - 24 & "11th" - 19)
- 12 - God's power and authority (187)
- 13 - Rebellion
- 40 - Represent completeness or wholeness.
- 70 - Perfect spiritual order carried out with all power.

Keywords

"create" (bara), "make" (asah), and "form" (yatsar). In Isaiah 43:7 - All the three are used.

Jehova means the becoming one as God relates to man and man's needs and becomes to man whatever man may need.

PRAYER

Father we thank you for the privilege of studying your word together.

Thank you for the records Jesus, that lead us to you and eternal life in you.

Jesus let your Holy spirit now implant upon our hearts your truths.

Thank you Jesus that revelation knowledge will flow freely, uninterrupted & un-hindered by satanic or demonic forces.

In Jesus's name and everybody say Amen!



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REVIEW

God appeared to Jacob as he was fleeing from Canaan to go live with his uncle Laban in Bethel and while in Bethel he vowed to make the Lord his God.

Now 30 years later after growing a family and leaving Laban, Jacob's family had an ugly incident where his daughter Dinah was raped in Genesis 34:1.

Dinah's brothers revenged and annihilated the entire town which led Jacob to fear a retaliation from the neighboring cities.

Now in this chapter God tells Jacob it is time to fulfill his vows by building an altar at Bethel.

Jacob begins by directing his large company to gather all their foreign gods or idols they'd stolen from Laban in Genesis 31:19 and to purify themselves, including putting on new, clean garments.

Rather than destroy the idols or repurpose their metal, Jacob buried them under a tree which symbolized a complete and total rejection of those objects.

After the purification process completed, they got on the road from Shechem to Bethel, the place of Jacob's first encounter with the Lord.

Once they arrived at Bethel, Jacob obediently built an altar to the Lord and called it El-Bethel, meaning "God in Bethel."

In verses 5–8 we will see a passing reference made to Deborah, the nurse of Jacob's mother, and her burial in this area.

Although it wasn't clear if she has just died, or if this refers to some earlier event.

God appeared to Jacob again here at Bethel again affirming several things He had previously declared.

- He said again that Jacob's new name was Israel. (As was in Genesis 32:28)
- He reminded Israel that nations will come from him.
- That the land promised Abraham and Isaac will belong to him and his descendants.

Jacob worshiped God and:

- He built a stone pillar and poured over it both a drink offering and oil.

After all these events, Jacob and his company traveled toward Bethlehem in the region of Ephrath.

Along the way unfortunately his most loved wife Rachel died giving birth to her second son Benjamin who now is the 12th son of Jacob.

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Jacob buried her and built another stone pillar over her tomb and this very spot became a landmark for future generations of Israelites.

While Jacob is still mourning his beloved wife, boom another scandal erupts in which his oldest son, Reuben, defiles the family by sleeping with Rachel's servant and Jacob's servant-wife, Bilhah.

Scripture gives no details on why this happened, or how, or to what extent Bilhah was cooperative.

However in that culture, taking the wives or concubines of a leader was a sign of conquest and as such Reuben's act is an attempted coup.

Or, it could be an act of revenge against the father who failed to love his mother Leah.

Jacob strangely doesn't do anything until many years later in Genesis 49:4 & 1 Chronicles 5:1 where it coasted Reuben the family birthright.

Finally, this section of Genesis ends with the death of Jacob's father, Isaac.

Isaac was 180 years old.

And he was buried by both Jacob and Esau at the family burial cave in Mamre which there Grandfather Abraham purchased in verses 27-29.

That's it, The Summary of Genesis 35



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GEN 35: 1

And God said unto Jacob. Arise go up to Beth-el, and dwell there; and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

“And God said unto Jacob, Arise go up to Bethel, and dwell there...”

When did God say this? When Jacob’s family was falling apart.

His daughter, Dinah, had just been involved in an illicit relationship with Shechem, the son of Hamor and his sons had just committed a horrible crime.

It was deceitful and treacherous, but when rebuked by their father; they gave no indication of repentance at all.

Their crime brought a threat of extermination upon the family as word of what they had done went into the surrounding villages.

Surely they would gather together in a large number and destroy Jacob and his family.

Jacob is afraid and knows that he must flee and it is at this point that God speaks to him.

There is tremendous significance in going to Bethel.

The first time that Jacob came to Bethel, he was fleeing for his life.

His brother Esau had vowed to kill him; because, he had deceived his father and had stolen the blessing that Isaac had intended for Esau.

Jacob had slept on a stone, there at Bethel, and had a vision of the LORD standing at the top of a ladder.

The LORD spoke to Jacob and told him that He would be with him in his journey and would bring him back safely into the land and would prosper him.

When Jacob awoke from the dream, he was conscious of the presence of God.

For the first time, he had a personal encounter with God.

So, Jacob is again fleeing for his life and God brings him back to Bethel, where he had his first encounter with God.

God said to Israel, at a later time, as they were lamenting their lost love in Jer.2:2,

“...I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.”

Where is that love now?

Jesus, when he addressed Himself to the Church of Ephesus, said in Rev.2:2-4,

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"I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars; And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

God is bringing Jacob back to Bethel where he had made his commitment to Him.

Jacob had promised that if God would be with him on his journey and bring him back into the land that he would give Him a tenth of all he had.

God had kept His side of it, but Jacob had not.

God was with Jacob and blessed him while he was in Padan-aram; but, when he came back he settled at Shechem and seemed to leave God out of his life.

The ten years around Shechem had its effect on his family and they became polluted by its morals and now Jacob is fleeing for his life.

God takes him back to Bethel where he had his first encounter with Him.

God will often take "you" back to Bethel to remind you from where you have fallen; so, repent and go back and do your first works again.

God will call you back to your first love and the excitement you felt when you first met Him.

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.

(Throughout the Bible, garments symbolize character.

Jude 23 gives the idea: but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Ephesians 4:22-24 gives a similar exhortation: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

It's also believed that this might have been the origin "of our custom of wearing 'our Sunday best'.)

When Jacob had fled from Laban, his wife, Rachel, had taken her father's little idols. At the time, Jacob did not know it.

When Laban pursued Jacob and caught up with him, he accused him of stealing his gods and Jacob said whoever they were found with should be put to death.

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Laban searched, but didn't find them.

Jacob was angry because of the accusation and he rebuked Laban.

They made a covenant not to cross over a certain pile of stones to do each other harm and then Laban left.

Perhaps, when Laban was gone, Rachel brought out the gods and made a laughing remark that she had been sitting on them.

They began to admire her cleverness, her deceitfulness in that her father didn't find them and Jacob tolerated this and didn't rebuke her.

By his allowing Rachel to keep them, the idolatry spread in the family so that, at this time, Jacob had to address the whole family to put away their foreign gods.

No doubt when the sons had sacked the city of Shechem, they probably picked up a lot more of these gods from the people of Shechem.

Idolatry was rampant in Jacob's family and he told them to put them away and cleanse themselves and change their garments.

A word of advice to parents:

Jacob's family only got right with God after Jacob himself did.

This shows us the tremendous leadership role we men have within our families.

- A man resisting God will see the same effect in his children.
- Likewise a man who gets right with God will also see the effect in his family.

Jacob's children kept **foreign gods** because their mother did.

No matter how hard we try to teach our children godly conduct, they will continue to do what we *do*.

GEN 35: 3

And let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; 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.

Jacob realized that:

- God had kept his part of the bargain
 - God had answered his prayers in every crisis he had faced.
 - God had never left him in all of his travels out of the land and back again.
-

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But unfortunately that he himself hadn't; so, he was going back to Bethel and build an altar and keep his vow to God.

His lack of spiritual leadership in the home and the lack of setting a good example was very costly.

Even as your lack of establishing a strong spiritual example before your family can be costly.

It's sad the things that we tolerate today and even worse are the things that we have come to accept.

Things that were once shocking to us are now very common and we're not shocked anymore; so, we, sort of, overlook these things.

Too many families are allowing pornographic magazines in the house, bringing in pornographic videos or having cable with the Playboy Channel.

Too many families are allowing their children to listen to the "porno rock" in a lot of the new albums which are popular with the kids.

Have you heard what Prince and Madonna are saying to your kids? You haven't resisted the complaints of your children and taken a firm stand against these.

You've accepted it when they say,

"Everybody listens to it" and you've left it go and said, "Stay in your bedroom and keep the door closed, I don't want to hear it,"

but, you've left them go in and pollute themselves.

You haven't made a strong spiritual stand. Jacob is making a strong spiritual stand, with his family, against these foreign gods.

He is establishing God's word within the family again.

A purifying by the word of God.

Jesus said that we were clean through the word and David said that a young man could cleanse his way by taking heed to the word of God.

Give God's word a place in your family life.

It is unfortunate that we, often, give more time to the television and social media than we do to the word of God.

Jacob told his family to change their garments.

They probably had begun to dress in the fashion of the Shechemites.

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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.

These **earrings** were amulets with idolatrous significance and were often covered with allegorical figures and mysterious sentences.

Instead of taking them and melting them down, they got rid of them and buried them nonetheless.

It is important for everyone to take stock of what they may have in their home that is ungodly or connected to the occult, and get rid of those things.

The message to Jacob's family was very clear.

Jacob's household understood that they were completely dependent on God alone with no other foreign gods to fall back on.

This itself was an act of faith for the whole community.

GEN 35: 5

And they journeyed; **(The word here journeyed literally means to "pick up the tent stakes)** and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

Once again, God steps in to keep His promises and to protect Jacob and his family from any harm.

This time though, God's method is to cause "a terror" to fall on the people of the cities in the region.

They had no courage to come after Jacob's company.

This implies that Jacob was right to be concerned about the people of the region wanting to kill them in retaliation for their attack against Shechem.

God had to shut down that impulse by placing a great fear of the Israelites in their hearts.

If you recall a similar thing fell upon the citizens of Jericho at the approach of the Israelites after the forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

The harlot Rahab revealed to the spies of Joshua in Joshua 2:9 that,

"I know that Jehovah hath given you the land, and that the fear of you is fallen upon us, and that all inhabitants of the land melt away before you".

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Again and again, God used this same ploy in the protection of the Chosen People.

GEN 35: 6

So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Beth-el, he and all the people that were with him.

In obedience to God's command, and to fulfill the vow he'd made 20 years ago, Jacob and his whole company now arrived in Bethel.

It's also interesting that despite Jacob living in Shechem for ten years there is no account of him going back to Beth-el and yet, Shechem was only about fifty miles away.

You'd expect that Jacob would have gone back to the place of his first encounter with God; but, he was so into the material things that he didn't think of the spiritual until he had to flee for his life.

GEN 35: 7-8

And he built there an altar, and called the place El-beth-el; because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.

(In describing the earlier encounter, Scripture noted that Jacob had called the place Bethel.

So it's possible that he thought of that title at the time but did not seek to "rename" the location. Or, that he did and what's described here is a re-dedication.

El Bethel means "God in Bethel" and this is the place God showed Himself to Jacob in a powerful dream as he slept with a rock for a pillow.)

⁸But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Beth-el under an oak; and the name of it was called Allon-bachuth. (Which means Oak of Weeping)

When Isaac married Rebekah, her father gave her Deborah as her nurse and she came back with Rebekah and lived with them.

She was probably the governess for the children and so, Jacob had known Deborah all of his life.

Oftentimes the nurse would have the full care and training of the children as they were growing up.

After Rebekah died, Jacob, probably, visiting his father in Hebron may have insisted that Deborah come back and live with him and now she is quite old.

Perhaps the trauma that they just went through, at Shechem, was too much for her.

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Now it's very interesting that Deborah, a woman of low estate, was accorded this special and devoted reference, whereas her mistress Rebekah died and was buried with no notice.

This is an outstanding demonstration of how worthless in the sight of God are our social distinctions.

The place of Deborah's burial was called Allon-bacuth, which means "Oak of Weeping," indicating that Deborah was highly respected and sincerely loved.

Unfortunately for Rebekah she was never mentioned until Joseph asked to be buried alongside her and other ancestors in Genesis 49:31.

GEN 35: 9

And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padan-aram, and blessed him.

In other words relationship was restored.

This was an excellent example of what it means to return to your first love, as in Revelation 2:4-5: Jacob remembered to go back to Bethel.

He repented by getting rid of all the idols, and he did the first works by building an altar and worshipping God as before.

It's also quite an interesting thing how God so often waits for us. He's always there waiting. We often stray in our hearts from God.

There is a song that says,

"You may be a million miles from the gates of peace, but you're one little step from God."

It's so easy to drift from the path, but it's hard to get back.

Here Jacob had been journeying thirty years, traveling here and there messing things up and now he is desperate and fleeing for his life.

And as soon as arrived at the place God told him to go, he immediately found great blessing.

God appeared to him, God blessed him, and God called him by his new name (Israel).

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 said to Jacob, "This is it."

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“You’ve gone far enough after your own self, but from now on you will be governed by God.”

Being reminded of the new name was important, because Jacob had acted like the old Jacob instead of Israel.

Yet God wanted to set his mind on the new man God made him to be.

God does the same with us, reminding us who we are in Him.

God wants us to remember and live in the great names He gives us.

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.

God confirmed these promises by declaring Himself to be "God Almighty."

This is from the Hebrew *'ēl Sad'day*, also written as *El Shaddai*.

The first use of this title came when God was speaking to Abraham, making similar promises in Genesis 17:1.

God Almighty is known by His faithfulness and ability to keep his promises.

Now Jacob, who already has 11 sons and at least one daughter, is commanded to be fruitful and multiply.

We see a similar command, given first to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 and later to Noah in Genesis 9:1 is now given to Israel and his descendants with God's promise of the nations and kings that will come as a result.

GEN 35: 12-13

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.

(God revealed himself to Jacob and blessed him with the renewing of the covenant that He had made with Abraham and Isaac and now declares it will be fulfilled through Jacob.

*Interestingly also is that God's blessings waits for us until we *do* what He tells us to do.)*

¹³And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.

(Seemingly God appeared to Jacob here in a bodily form and blessed him remarkably after his return to his first love.)

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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.

This is the first mention of a drink offering in the Old Testament.

The drink offering was actually the pouring of the oil upon the rock which was a symbol of consecration.

"Here I have met God and here I make my consecration."

And this idea of a **drink offering** is found in several places in the Bible.

Exodus 29:40-41, Leviticus 23:13, and Numbers 15:5-7 show the drink offering was made with wine poured out in sacrifice before the LORD at His altar.

Later on in the Levitical offering, the drink offering became one of the offerings within the Levitical system.

Paul considered the pouring out of his life before God to be like the pouring out of a drink offering at God's altar in Philippians 2:17 and 2 Timothy 4:6.

Otherwise Jacob's heart of worship showed *gratitude* towards God.

When we look back on life, we should never have the attitude that says, "I was robbed." Instead our heart should say, "God has blessed."

This will probably determine if we will be perfectly miserable or perfectly delightful as we get older.

GEN 35: 15

And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Beth-el.

Here, Jacob reconfirmed the name of this very special place.

This is where God has appeared to him, *twice*. And as such it's appropriate to call it Bethel, meaning "house of God."

GEN 35: 16-18

And they journeyed from Beth-el; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath; and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labor.

(Now the company left Bethel and began to travel south toward the Ephrath region.)

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This is the location of Bethlehem.

Before they arrived, Jacob's most loved wife Rachel went into labor with her second son.

Remember her first son, Joseph, was an answer to desperate prayer in Genesis 30:22–24.

And as she celebrated, Rachel asked God for another son.

Now whether she had other children especially daughters between then and now, Scripture does not say.

This labor was difficult, likely made more so by the fact that it occurred during a period of travel.

The Hebrew words used in this passage imply "severe," "harsh," or even "fierce.")

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

(We don't know how long Jacob stayed at Bethel, but it is possible this last child was conceived at this place where Jacob came back to his first love for the LORD.

Anyways Rachel's labor was difficult and life-threatening.

A bit of detail is that the midwife can identify the baby's sex during and not after the worst part of this process.

This could suggest something like a breech birth, where the baby is delivered feet-first.

This timing might also suggest the midwife was performing a Caesarean, or "C-section," where the infant is cut from the mother's womb.

In the ancient world, a c-section was a last-ditch effort to save the baby of a dying woman, as the "surgery" itself was always fatal.

The midwife delivering the baby attempts to encourage Rachel with the news that she has given birth to a long-awaited second son.)

¹⁸And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

(Rachel named this last child **Ben-Oni**, which literally means "son of my sorrow.")

However Jacob wisely named the child **Benjamin**, which means "*son of my right hand.*"

Perhaps he rightly sensed the special place God had for this child, or perhaps he simply prized Benjamin so greatly because he was the final link between him and the woman he most loved.

Benjamin: The right side was associated with greater strength and honor, because most people are right-handed.

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And therefore, has the idea of “son of my strength” or “son of my honor.”

➤ This idea is expressed in passages like Exodus 15:6:

Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

➤ The LORD is our strength and honor, as in Psalm 16:8:

I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

➤ God’s strength and honor are for us in Psalm 138:7:

My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me (Psalm 63:8). Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me.

➤ Jesus sits at the *right hand* of the Father, the position of strength and honor, and we sit there with Him in Colossians 3:1

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.)

GEN 35: 19

And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

Rachel was buried along the road to Ephrath, the region where Bethlehem would be later (Ruth 1:2; Micah 5:2).

This situates the birth of Benjamin near Bethlehem and Jerusalem, a region his descendants would later come to possess in Joshua 18:21–28.

It also helps to explain Matthew's reference to Rachel when depicting Herod's slaughter of infants from that area in Matthew 2:16–18.

Matthew, in turn, was citing the words of the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 31:15.

GEN 35: 20

And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day.

When the Bible uses the phrase that something is “there to this day,” it refers to the time that the passage was physically written down.

These words were recorded, originally, by Moses and he likely recorded them while Israel was traveling in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt.

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This would have been several hundred years later in Exodus 12:41, making the survival of such a monument especially noteworthy.

Having said that, the location of Rachel's tomb remained a well-known landmark for many years.

It is referred to as a specific place both by Samuel in 1 Samuel 10:2 and Jeremiah in Jeremiah 31:15.

Anyways to the present day outside of Bethlehem, there is a pillar which they say is the pillar of Rachel and the Jewish people go there to pray.

They have such reverence for the dead saints of God that they go to the various tombs to pray.

GEN 35: 21-22

And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.

(Now they move on and set up camp at a location called Migdal-'ēder.

This Hebrew phrase literally means "tower of the flock."

It might have been an actual, literal watchtower meant to better observe the shepherds in the region. Or, this is simply the same given to that area.

An exact location is unknown, though it's somewhere between Bethlehem and Hebron.)

²²And 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.

This is the first time Scripture directly uses the name Israel for the man born as Jacob.

Reuben is Jacob's oldest son, about thirty years old at this time, and Bilhah, his concubine, is the maidservant of Rachel.

We might expect the best conduct from him, and might expect him to most seriously receive the covenant of his fathers.

Yet here, he sinned in a most offensive way against his father and entire family.

However, we don't have to wonder about where this sinful conduct came from.

In a home so filled with strife, contention, competition, and the pursuit of the flesh, this behavior was almost to be expected.

Israel didn't take any action against Reuben at this time, but when he pronounces the blessings upon his sons in the forty-ninth chapter; he takes away the birthright from him.

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Unfortunately for Reuben, Simeon, and Levi because of their sin they were disqualified from the high calling of Abraham's blessing.

It was up to the fourth son, Judah, to bring forth the Messiah.

GEN 35: 23-26

The sons of Leah: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun.

(The sons of Jacob's unloved wife, Leah include, in order, Reuben (Genesis 29:32), Simeon (Genesis 29:33), Levi (Genesis 29:34), Judah (Genesis 29:35), Issachar (Genesis 30:17-18), and Zebulun (Genesis 30:19-20).

These became 6 of the 12 storied tribes of Israel.)

²⁴The sons of Rachel: Joseph, and Benjamin.

(The sons of Jacob's most loved and recently deceased wife Rachel (Genesis 35:16-20) are Joseph (Genesis 30:23-24) and Benjamin (Genesis 35:18).

Joseph will soon to be revealed as Jacob's most loved son and the following section of Genesis will focus mostly on his story.

Benjamin is now the baby of the family, and Jacob's last link to Rachel (Genesis 42:4).

Jacob's sons were mentioned by name because they became the patriarchs of the nation of Israel.)

²⁵And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid: Dan, and Naphtali.

(Bilhah's two sons included Dan (Genesis 30:5-6) and Naphtali (Genesis 30:7-8).

BTW any daughters conceived by these women were left unmentioned, as the focus was on the future patriarchs of the nation of Israel.

Only Dinah, a daughter of Leah, was mentioned due to her tragic story in Genesis 30:21; 34:1.)

²⁶And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid: Gad, and Asher; these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padan-aram.

(Zilpah bore Gad (Genesis 30:11) and Asher (Genesis 30:13).

Apart from Benjamin, recently born to Rachel in the Promised Land of Canaan, Jacob's other 11 sons were all born when he lived and worked with his uncle and father-in-law, Laban, in Paddan-aram.

The list of sons was now complete; Jacob never had others in this generation.

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These 12 will begin to fulfill God's promise to grow into multiple nations as they go on to have sons and grandsons of their own.)

This also goes without saying that his was actually a severely dysfunctional family which God used not because they were such great or spiritual men, but because He chose them by His grace alone.

GEN 35: 27-28

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

(More than 30 years ago, Jacob left his home thinking his father would die soon and he probably never expected to see his father again.)

In fact Isaac also thought he was dying at the time of Jacob's fleeing ☺

The lesson here is that we should remember our times are in God's hands.

We may expect a long or short life for others or ourselves and be very wrong because as it's only God knows our timings.)

²⁸And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.

Isaac was a hundred and eighty years old. He had been blind for a long time and at this point he was probably incapacitated.

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.

Isaac died at 180 years of age, "old and full of days."

Something similar was said of his father Abraham when he died at 175 in Genesis 25:7.

Isaac was buried in the family burial tomb at Mamre in Genesis 23:2-4; 35:27, by his twin sons Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:23-28.

This may be the first time Jacob and Esau have reunited since the resolution of their conflict when Jacob first re-entered the land of Canaan in Genesis 33:1-4.

A saw a similar reunion took place in the previous generation when Isaac and his half-brother Ishmael joined to bury Abraham in the same cave in Genesis 25:9.

The death and burial of Isaac closed out this section of the book of Genesis.

GENESIS 35

This portion is known as the "generations of Isaac" (Genesis 25:19).

Previous sections were also named by the family patriarch involved (Genesis 6:9; 11:27).

The following chapter will briefly explain the lineage of Esau (Genesis 36:1), much as an earlier passage did for Ishmael (Genesis 25:12), as they were not the ones to carry the line of God's chosen people.

After this will come the final portion of Genesis, which explains the fate of Jacob's line (Genesis 37:2).

A large part of this story will revolve around Jacob's favorite son (Genesis 37:3), Joseph (Genesis 30:22–24).

THE LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THIS STUDY ARE:

1. Renewal Begins with Repentance, Purification, and Returning to God.

Although Jacob had backslidden in his walk, he promptly responded to God's call by telling his family to dispose of their pagan idols, cleanse themselves, and return to God.

2. Renewal Brings the Blessings of God's Protection from Your Enemies.

Because Jacob's family repented and acted with obedience, God placed a hedge of protection around them as they journeyed to Bethel.

3. Renewal Allows You to Walk in a Covenant Relationship with God.

Jacob's sins caused him to feel unworthy of God's blessings. But out of mercy and grace, El Shaddai confirmed both His Covenant and His new name of "Israel" for Jacob.

4. Renewal Includes Joyful Praise and Gratitude for His Mercy and Grace.

After returning to Bethel, Jacob faithfully built an altar of worship at the same location where God spoke to him as he fled to Haran 30 years earlier.

5. Renewal Requires that You Die to Your Old Ways of the Flesh.

God renewed and transformed Israel to prepare him for the many tragedies that were still to come. The first was the mixed blessing of his twelfth son while simultaneously losing his wife Rachel.

6. Your Renewal May Bless Your Children, But Will Not Transform Them.

After losing his wife Rachel, the transformed Israel suffered his second tragedy. His first-born son Reuben slept with Bilhah, Jacob's concubine and Rachel's maidservant.

7. Renewal Brings the Blessings of a Longer Life Here and Eternal Life.

GENESIS 35

The transformed Israel again suffered his third tragedy. After only briefly being reunited with his father, Isaac passed away. His death also united Jacob and Esau in peace.

We will start from Chapter 36 next week ...

IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR, I WANT YOU TO PRAY THIS PRAYER WITH ME RIGHT NOW

- Heavenly Father, I realize that I'm a sinner
 - But right now I repent of my sins
 - I make you my Lord
 - I receive the free gift of forgiveness of sin
 - I need you, Jesus
 - Be my savior
 - So right now I declare by faith that I am saved in Jesus' name. Amen & Praise God
-

If you just prayed that prayer with me online, please let us know through our website and we shall send you a free eBook as a gift to you today.

Otherwise, welcome to the family of God. Amen!

LET'S STANDUP FOR THE FINAL BLESSING

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us:

- Be with you, bless you and keep you
 - May the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and give you peace
 - May your heart be filled with his love
 - May you walk in the spirit
 - May you be strengthened by the work of his Holy spirit in your inner man
 - May you be increased in knowledge and understanding of His word, His will and His purposes for your life that you might walk before the Lord in a way that's pleasing unto him
 - And may God increase your faith and your trust
-

GENESIS 35

- May he work in your life in a beautiful way as he natures you and as he leads you into that path of fellowship with him self
 - May your life be enriched in all things in Christ Jesus
 - And May the Lord and his blessings be upon you while we are absent from each other until we are brought back together again to continue our fellowship and our growing together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ
 - Amen
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