

FAMILY MATTERS | GENESIS 35:16-36:43 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 3/10/2024

* I. Family Hardships (35:16-22a, 27-29) | II. Family Records (35:2b-26; 36:1-43)

INTRO: In our last study (35:1-15), we learned that **Jacob finally put away Compromise and Complacency** in his life, **ultimately making his way back to Bethel**. He even set up a **Pillar of Stones** marking his **“full surrender to God” (35:14)**. Jacob knew **Bethel was the place where God wanted him to be!** / But as time went on, Jacob was forced to set-up **ANOTHER PILLAR... Rachel’s Gravestone** / In our teaching today, we learn of hardships and **matters that surround Jacob’s Entire Family**, so I’ve entitled this message: **FAMILY MATTERS (Genesis 35:16-36:43) ***

I. FAMILY HARDSHIPS (35:16-22a, 27-29) – Some hardships are just a normal part of being human. But sometimes our own poor decisions or even the decisions of family members can bring...

READ

A. BITTERSWEET EVENTS (16-20) – Jacob just had a mountain top experience, but as soon as his family **“journeyed away from Bethel” (16a)**, we learn that hardship showed up! – **Does this mean that tragedy came because Jacob left Bethel? Not necessarily, but definitely a possibly!** – **Why didn’t Jacob’s family just STAY AT THE HOUSE OF GOD? (The Place of Abiding!)**

And so, we read of the...

- 1. DEATH of Rachel** – The text suggests that the journey to Ephrath was **too difficult for Rachel to endure**, which forced her into **HARD LABOR!** – This was Jacob’s favorite wife... the one who struggled with Beauty, Envy, and Idolatry, but especially **Prominence!** – In (30:1) **Rachel’s only concern was notoriety**. She begged Jacob **“Give me children or I die!”**
- Even though her mid-wife encouraged her, **She Died** after giving birth to her son (19).
 - Rachel’s last words revealed **Her Bitterness in Life**, as she named her son: BEN-ONI, which, means... **SON of My SORROW!** (How sad to go through life holding on to bitterness!)
 - Her death also fulfilled Jacob’s pronounced curse on “the one” who stole Laban’s idols (31:32)

P/A – **Rachel’s Pillar reminds us that Life is Short!** As believers in Christ, we should be focused on blessing others and bringing glory God, not consumed with selfish pursuits! – In (Rom 12:18) Paul tells believers to, **“live ours lives peaceably with all!”** (How difficult this was for Jacob!)

Yet, in the bitterness of death, sweetness came with the...

- 2. BIRTH of Benjamin** – **Jacob’s twelfth son!** – Instead of wallowing in the hardship, Jacob brought hope to his new son by **changing his name** to **BEN-JAMIN**, which means... **SON of My RIGHT HAND!** – He did not want his son to live as a **Child of Sorrow**, but as a **Child of Strength!** – **Be careful with the things you utter!** (Prov 18:21a) says, **Death and life are in the power of the tongue... – When bad things happen you have THREE CHOICES: You can let it define you, let it destroy you, or you can let it Strengthen You!** Jacob chose this, then moved on!

Unfortunately, Jacob’s Firstborn son brought about... READ

B. BITTER BEHAVIOR (21-22a) – Notice first the **name switch** from **Jacob** to **Israel** in (v.21). – **Israel** was trying to walk in righteousness, being governed by God, yet another **FAMILY MATTER** surfaced, when **Reuben had an incestual relationship with Bihlah**; his father’s Concubine, his Mother’s Maidservant, his Half-brother’s Mom, who was at least **20 years older than Reuben!** (Though Reuben was to blame here, you may recall that Bilhah’s name in Hebrew lit. means trouble!)

- As *“Israel Heard About It”* (v.22), we fail to see any type of rebuke or consequence here. – In fact, nothing is ever mentioned until (Gen 49), when *Jacob speaks a curse over him*, and references the reason for it: **(tt. Gen 49:3-4)**.
- Reuben’s once excellent character as firstborn turned into INSTABILITY and RECESSION! – *Sin makes a person unstable... it brings about consequences!* **(Prov 28:13)** *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

P/A – Family Hardships which involve SIN is often painful! And if we are not careful, then we can find ourselves **Harboring Unforgiveness in our hearts** towards those who wronged us! (*A Hard Balance*)

And still another Hardship with the... **READ**

C. BURIAL OF ISAAC (27-29) – You may recall that back in (27:1-4), Isaac presumed that his time on earth was up. But here we are told that *“he died old and full of days”* at **180 years.**

- In (v.29), both Jacob and Esau gathered to bury their father Isaac, much like Isaac and Ishmael did for Abraham’s burial (25:9). / **During such Family Hardships, families should set aside any differences to RESPECT the loss of their loved ones.** (*Funerals and Family Matters can be difficult for sure! – We should also REFLECT on the life our loved ones who have passed!*)
- **Isaac’s Life** – Even though Isaac's life is devoid of significant achievements, God used the life of Isaac to carry on the covenant line—the same line that would give rise to Jesus, the Messiah.
- **Isaac was a type of Christ**, the son who was “offered to God,” **to test Abraham’s faith.** But here we learn that **Isaac eventually died!** – He died because **“Death is the sting of sin!”** **(1 Cor 15:56)** – Isaac’s life FORSHADOWED Jesus Christ, the **Anti-type**, the **Son of God** who actually died and rose again from the grave, to **REDEEM mankind from Sin and Death!**

P/A – All the Bitterness and Hardships in Abraham’s life, Isaac’s life, and even Jacob’s life, serve as vivid reminders of the **HOPE** that one can have in **JESUS CHRIST**, who ultimately brings Healing, Restoration, and Salvation to **ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIS NAME BY FAITH!** – **(Heb 7:25)** says, *Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.* – **“You may go through difficulty, hardship or trial – but as long as you are anchored to Him, you will have hope.”** – Charles F. Stanley

All Family Matters, Hardships, and even Bittersweet Moments in life will fade when we look to the Cross! – Because **FAMILY MATTERS TO GOD**, He sent His son to die for your pain, for your hurts, for your wrongs... **He died so that those who believe in Him will be brought into God’s Heavenly Family!** – This fact provides us with a different perspective in life! **“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny”** – C.S. Lewis (*Are You Part of God’s family?*)

II. FAMILY RECORDS (22b-26;36:1-43) – Both Jacob and Esau’s lineage are listed here.

READ

A. JACOB’S DECENDANTS (22b-26) – This complete list is important because **God would use these tribes to build the nation of Israel.** **Many important Biblical Figures originated from these tribes, which God used for His purposes** (e.g., *Jesus was from Judah, Paul was from Benjamin, and John the Baptist was a Levite, etc.*)

- Their names are also listed in (1 Chron 2:1-2) as the **FAMILY OF ISRAEL** (not Jacob!) – The next section in Genesis **focuses on the History of Jacob** (37:1); i.e., a detailed focus on **Joseph and his brothers in Egypt**, where God would multiply them greatly as promised.
- After leaving Egypt, the tribes who received territory in the Promised Land were Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. (*Levi excluded* as priests and *Joseph replaced* by his sons as a double portion for faithfulness)
- The tribes are listed again in (Rev 7:5-8), but they are **NOT the same tribes that were given land in the book of Joshua**. – **Manasseh** is there, also **Ephraim** (under Joseph's name). But instead of **Dan**, *Levi is included...* No explanation is given as to why?

Next, we learn of...

B. ESAU'S DECENDANTS (36:1-43) – The information provided in **Ch.36** is not as important as Jacob's descendants. Nevertheless, they are listed both here and in (1 Chron 1:34-36), under **the Family of Isaac**. **READ** (1-14)

1. Esau is **EDOM** (1, 8) – Probably restated because eventually, Esau's descendants become Israel's enemy. – Also revealed is that Esau multiplied as promised (
2. Esau **Married Three WIVES** (2-5) – **Canaanites wives**, which was against his parents will! (Gen 26:34-35): **Adah** fka **Judith** (*Hittite*), **Aholibamah** fka **Basemath** (*Hivite*), and **Basemath** fka **Mahalath** (*Ishmaelite*). (cf. Gen 26:34; 28:9)
3. Esau **SEPARATED** from Jacob (6-8) – Because their possessions were too great! So, Esau **moved to Mt. Seir** and eventually overtook the land where he dwelt. The land soon became known as **Edom**, which is now modern-day **Jordan**.
4. Esau's Genealogy (9-14): Full graph includes Esau's 10 grandsons... (SHOW ENTIRE GRAPH)

ESAU'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY (3 wives, 15 sons)									
vv. 2-3	vv. 4-5			vv. 10-14					
Esau's 3 Wives	Esau's 5 Sons			Esau's 10 Grandsons					
Adah	Eliphaz			Temam	Omar	Zepho	Gatam	Kenaz	Amalek (of Timnah)
Aholibamah	Jeush	Jaalam	Korah						
Basemath	Reuel			Nahath	Zerah	Shammah	Mizzah		

- **AMALEK** is a notable person on this list. His descendants, the Amalekites, became Israel's well-known adversaries! (Ex 17:8-16; Deut 25:17-19; 1 Sam 15:1-8)
- In the Bible, the Amalekites are a type of the Flesh! – The **Book of Esther** tells how she became queen of Persia, *ordained to save her people from extermination*. The perpetrator of this genocide... **Haman the Agagite!** He was the advisor of the king of Persia and sworn enemy of the Jews. – **How does all this relate?** **Haman was a descendent of Agag, king of the Amalekites**, long-time enemies of the Jewish people. – **God told King Saul to destroy the Amalekites centuries earlier** (1 Sam 15:3), but **Saul failed to obey the command**. **His disobedience led to the loss of his kingdom** and, **in Esther's time**, the threat of annihilation for all Jews. (*Like the Amalekites, our flesh must be eradicated! It keeps us from living a holy and pleasing life before God!*)

5. Esau's Sons Considered "Chiefs" (15-19) – Tribal leaders in their areas, who would expand and control their surroundings.

C. SEIR'S SONS (20-29): A detailed list is provided here, revealing that **Seir the Horite** had **Seven Sons** who were chiefs in their lands for a time. But **(Deut 2:12)** informs us that **Esau's descendants** eventually **Overtook, Displaced** and **Destroyed the Horites**. (*Esau married two D*)

D. EDOM'S KINGS (31-39) – *"Kings Reigned!"* – *Man desires Human Governance rather than Theocratic Governance.* – **God's Rulership is always best because He designed and created all!** – *"Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done..."* said our Lord Jesus! In the Bible, the word **KINGDOM** is synonymous with **RULERSHIP!** *Who is your King?* To what kingdom do you belong?

E. ESAU'S CHIEFS RESTATED (40-43) – Another detailed list, which reshuffles names to emphasize their families, dwelling places, ending with the fact that **Esau is Father of the Edomites**.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: The inclusion of **Jacobs and Esau's FAMILY RECORDS** assures us that **God knows everyone who has ever existed!** He also know everything about us!

- **(Matt 10:30)** *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*
- **(Luke 21:18)** *But not a hair of your head shall be lost.*
- The greatest benefit given to Christians is being a **Member of God's Family**, a fact that should bring us to our knees in obedient worship!

Conclude with (tt. Eph 3:14-21)