

Genesis Chapter 35: Motivated by God's Faithfulness

Genesis Chapter 34 Review:

1. **Abandonment: Family Fabric Deterioration;** abdication [abandonment] of God given Roles and Responsibilities for Fathers, Mothers, Children and Spiritual Leaders
2. **Hypocrisy: Form of Godliness** in name only
3. **Greed: Covetousness; no different than the pagan world**
 - Jacob the Patriarch allowed others to "Call the Shots", taking a "spiritual vacation"
 - Jacob sufficiently humbled [at great cost] and ready for **Bethel**

Genesis 28:20 [Read] Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "**If God** will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, 21 and I **return to my father's house in safety, then the LORD will be my God.**"

- Jacob returns to where his **pilgrimage with God began**

Genesis Chapter 35

I: Motivated by God's Faithfulness, Jacob Acts on God's Word

Luke 5:4b [Jesus said to Peter] "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless **at Your word** I will let down the net."

1Then God said to Jacob, "**Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there** to God, who appeared to you **when you fled** from your brother Esau."

- "**Then God said...**": Unlike disaster of Shechem; going w/out God's leading

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15Instead, you ought to say, "**If the Lord wills**, we will live and also do this or that." 16But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

1. **Arise**
2. **Live:** Go to Bethel and Live there
3. **Worship:** Make an Altar to God who revealed himself to you [God initiated]

2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "**Put away the foreign gods** which are among you, and **purify yourselves and change your garments;**"

- "**So Jacob said...**"
 1. **Put away** your false gods...which are among you; i.e. **confess your sins**

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

2. **Purify** yourself...change your garments; i.e. **get rid of old habits**

Hebrews 12:1b ...let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need.

- **Consecrate:** to dedicate something or somebody to a specific purpose
- **Change garments:** Physical picture of a Spiritual reality; white robes. C.f. **Exodus 19:10**
- Jacob takes God given authority to prepare his family:

Romans 13:1 ...there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Mark1:22 They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one **having authority**, and not as the scribes. **Mark1:27** They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching **with authority**

- We are to "**step-up**" to what God sees in us:

Judges 6:12 And the angel of Jehovah appeared unto [Gibeon], and said unto him, Jehovah is with thee, **thou mighty man of valor**.

- Jacob is now **leading** his family:

Joshua 24:15 "...choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, **we will serve the LORD**."

3 and **let us arise and go up to Bethel**, and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the **day of my distress** and has been with me wherever I have gone."

- **Day of my distress:** From the time he ran away until he met Esau
- **20 years worrying**

Matthew6:34 "So **do not worry** about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

1 Peter 5:6 ...humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ **casting** [rolling over] **all** your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and might **free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.** ¹⁶For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.

4 So they gave to Jacob **all** the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob **hid them** under the oak which was near Shechem.

- Gave ALL foreign gods and ear rings; for ear rings used as charms. c.f. Hosea 2:13
- **Hid:** i.e. buried completely under **the oak tree:**

Genesis 12:6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to **the oak of Moreh.**

5As they journeyed, there was a **great terror** upon the cities which were around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

- **Terror:** Lit. To be shattered; to be dismayed. The boys action invoked a **fear but not a love of God;** No pursuit by enemies; **supernatural protection**

Psalms 105:14 He permitted no man to oppress them, And He reproveth kings for their sakes: ¹⁵"Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

Exodus 15:16 "**Terror and dread fall upon them;** By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone; Until Your people pass over, O LORD, Until the people pass over **whom You have purchased.**

Exodus 23:27 "**I will send My terror ahead of you,** and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

Deuteronomy 2:25 '**This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you** upon the peoples everywhere under the heavens, who, when they hear the report of you, will tremble and be in anguish because of you.' [See 6 day war in Israel]

6So **Jacob came to** Luz (that is, **Bethel**), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. 7 **He built an altar there,** and called the place El-bethel, because there God had **revealed Himself** to him **when he fled** from his brother.

- "**Bethel which is in Canaan**" God sees what will be as if it is; build an altar, you own it!
- **Bethel:** Place of Jacob's ladder, i.e. revealing Jesus as intercessor; God and man
- **Bethel:** House of God; **Altar:** El-Bethel or "The **strong God** of the House of God"

1. Abram pitched his tent west of Bethel [Gen 12]
2. Joshua sent the spies to Ai, near Bethel under Pagan rule [Joshua 7]
3. House of Joseph conquered Bethel [Judges 1:23]
4. Deborah would judge [rule] in between Ramah and Bethel [Judges 4]
5. Prophet Samuel would preach at Bethel annually [1 Sam 7]
6. Jeroboam would defile Bethel with a golden calf [1 Kings 12]
7. "School of Prophets" in Bethel [2 Kings 2]; calves remained [2 Kings 10]
8. Josiah finally removed the idols from Bethel [2 Kings 23]

- Jacob will now **make God his God**; both keeping their promise:

Genesis 28:20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "**If God** will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, ²¹and I return to my father's house in safety, **then the LORD will be my God**."

8Now Deborah, **Rebekah's nurse, died**, and she was buried below [to the south of] Bethel under the oak; it was named Allon-bacuth [oak of weeping].

- Rebekah's nurse Deborah dies after bringing bad news; **Rebekah**, Jacob's mother had **evidently died when Jacob was away**
- Deborah buried below **The Oak**: c.f.1 Samuel 10:3

II: 2nd Touch; Joy, A New Name and Eternal Promise Reaffirmed

Mark 8:23 Taking the blind man by the hand, [Jesus] brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴And he looked up and said, "I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around." ²⁵ Then **again He laid His hands on his eyes**; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.

9Then **God appeared to Jacob again** when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. 10God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But **Israel shall be your name**." Thus He called him Israel.

Genesis 32:28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, **but Israel**; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

- ...He [God] calls him **Israel** again: Reaffirmation after the Dinah incident

11 **God also** said to him, "**I am God Almighty**; Be **fruitful and multiply**; A **nation and a company** of nations shall come from you, And **kings shall come forth** from you. 12" The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you."

- God also said...you are Israel...**but I Am God Almighty!**

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to **walk humbly with your God?**

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and **know that I am God**: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

- **God Almighty; El Shaddai**: Shad lit. "breast" implying provision; nourishment, meeting needs
- Continuous move toward being a "people" for God's pleasure and purpose

1. **Be fruitful and multiply**: Back to the beginning:

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...**Genesis 9:1** And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...**9:7** "As for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it."

2. A **nation** and company will come forth **from you**
3. **Kings** will come forth from **you** [ultimately Jesus]
4. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you and to your descendants

- Moses pleaded for God not to "wipe the Israelite's off the face of the earth" **on the basis of His promise** i.e. His Word...to the Patriarchs

Exodus 32:13 "**Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel**, Your servants to whom You **swore by Yourself**, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

13 Then **God went up from him** in the place where He had spoken with him. 14 Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a **drink offering** on it; he also **poured oil** on it. 15 So Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him, Bethel [the house of God].

- **God went up**...rare ascension phrase [Acts 1:9]
- **Drink Offering**: One of the oldest offerings though *not described in Leviticus*
- Jacob did this at Bethel on his way to get a wife [Rachel] from Laban

Genesis 28:18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and **poured oil** on its top.

- Paul would use term "Drink Offering" as an analogy of "pouring out" his life

2 Timothy 4:6 For I [Paul] am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

- Jacob sets up another pillar **[Rock]...pours out wine and oil;** at Bethel
 1. **Rock:** Jesus
 2. **Wine:** Joy ...this time!
 3. **Oil:** Holy Spirit; Revealing the Rock; Jesus

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

Conclusion of Jacob's Primary Story 16-29 Possibly written by Jacob; see "generations of" [Heb. toledoth or "historical records"] and copied by Moses?

III. Season of Sorrow, Reflection and Growth

Isaiah 53:3 He [Jesus] was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...

- **And so also His servants:** "Servant not greater than his Master"

16 Then they journeyed **from Bethel**; and when there was still some distance to go **to Ephrath**, Rachel began to give birth and she **suffered** severe labor.

- Rachel in "severe" labor; i.e. distress in between Bethel and Bethlehem: **Ephrath:** ancient name of Bethlehem. C.f. **Ruth 4:11.**

Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel **His goings forth** are from long ago, **From the days of eternity.**"

17 When she was in severe labor the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for now you have **another son.**"

Genesis 30:24 She named him Joseph, saying, "**May the LORD give me another son.**"

- Another son; Joseph now 15 years old

18 It came about **as her soul was departing** (for she died), that she named him **Ben-oni** [the son of my sorrow]; but his father called him **Benjamin** [son of the right hand]. 19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

- Fear of infant death: **Rachel weeping**; c.f. Jeremiah 31:15

Matthew 2:18 "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEeping AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEeping FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."

- **Rachel died** having a son; she had asked for just one more! Soul departed
- **Ben-oni**: Son of my sorrow; **Benjamin**: Son of my right hand
- Buried "on the way to Bethlehem" Rachel only principal character **not** buried in the cave of Machpelah. c.f. Gen 23:19, 20, 1 Samuel 10:2

20 Jacob **set up a pillar** over her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

- **Jacob's pillars**: Remembering God's great work and **now his sorrow**

21 Then Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of **Eder**.

- **Eder**: "Tower of the Flock"; watchtower to see predators c.f. Micah 4:8
- Israel now "keeper of the flock"

22 It came about while Israel was dwelling in that land, that **Reuben** went and **lay with Bilhah his father's concubine**, and Israel heard of it.

- Bilnah much older than Reuben
- **Fornicating with a leaders woman**: Premature claim to the right of the firstborn; a sign of usurping authority; c.f. **1 Kings 2:21**; disrespect toward Jacob
- **Penalty for Reuben**: Birthright taken

Genesis 49:3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn; My might and the beginning of my strength, Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. 4"Uncontrolled as water, you **shall not have preeminence**, Because you went up to your father's bed; **Then you defiled it--he went up to my couch**.

1 Chronicles 5: 1 ...he **defiled his father's bed**, his birthright was **given to the sons of Joseph** the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright

23 **the sons of Leah**: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, then Simeon and Levi and Judah and Issachar and Zebulun;

- **Leah**: Reuben [Jacob's firstborn], Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun;

24 the sons of Rachel: **Joseph and Benjamin**; 25 and the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali; 26 and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maid:

Gad and Asher.

- **Rachel:** Joseph, Benjamin [Jacob's obvious favorites to a fault]
- **Bilhah:** Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali
- **Zilpah:** Leah's maid: Gad and Asher.

These are the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram. 27 Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre of Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

- Born in Paddan-aram; i.e. includes the who trip there and back
- Jacob home at **Hebron** with his father Isaac; **Rebekah** as not mentioned

28 Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years. 29 **Isaac breathed his last and died** and was gathered to his people, an old man of ripe age; and his sons **Esau and Jacob buried him.**

- **Isaac dies at 180** goes to Abraham's Bosom with Abraham, 25 years after Jacob left Laban; buried in cave at Machpelah: Everyone but Rachel would be there
- A time of Sorrow, Reflection, Growth

Ecclesiastes 7:2 It is **better** to go to a house of mourning Than to go to a house of feasting, Because that is the end of every man, And the living **takes it to heart. 7:4** The **mind of the wise is in the house of mourning**, While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure.

Genesis 49:31 "There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah--

- **Esau and Jacob** now 120 years old; together for one purpose

SUMMARY

- Jacob comes home, Rachel dies, Rebekah dies, Isaac dies, Deborah dies
- **Jacob acts** on God's Word, taking authority and demanding decisions
- **Bethel pt 2:** Joy, New Name, Promise
- **Jacob the lone Patriarch:** A time of Sorrow, Reflection **and Growth**

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death **I saw the Lord** sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.