

**Passage:** Genesis 34-35

**Title:** Be a Separate People

**Summary:** We will be looking at Jacob stopping short of God's will of where he should be, and he will reap the consequences and his whole family as well in one of the most disastrous stories of the Bible with the violation of his daughter, Dinah. But Jacob will use that horrible circumstance to get himself up and get going to where God had called him to go and be, and get things right between him, his family, and the Lord. A great passage for all of us, especially when we think God's grace has an expiration date on it.

The calling to us to be separate from the world:

**2 Corinthians 6:11–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. <sup>12</sup> You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your *own* affections. <sup>13</sup> Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. <sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *"I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."* <sup>17</sup> Therefore *"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."* <sup>18</sup> *"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."*

To "come out from among them" should be an automatic reaction in view of the above reasoning. Still, Paul used the aorist imperative to issue his call for separation to indicate urgency. His words are from Isaiah 52:11. Once they leave the world behind, God's children should then touch no unclean thing. If they "come out" and "touch not," the Lord will receive (eisdexomai, here only in the New Testament) or welcome them.

Harris, R. W., ed. (2009). *Romans–Corinthians* (p. 565). WORDsearch.

We are told as Christians to touch not the unclean things. Satan can only take advantage of you and your personal life through sin. He can't take advantage of you when you're obedient to the word of God. It's when we compromise into a place of sin that he has a foothold to take advantage and manipulate the situation. He can't take advantage of you when your mind is clear and sharp,

- but he can take advantage of you when your mind is under the influence of too much alcohol. He can't take advantage of you when you set yourself apart to be pure before the Lord,
- but he can take advantage of you and start pulling the strings of your emotion and your mind when you enter into the impurity things of life, such as dating an unbeliever or clicking on a website that is totally against the word of God.

Satan can only take advantage. when sin is present. He cannot take advantage of you when holiness is present.

### Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

**(Genesis 34:1 NKJV) Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.**

### **Young Girls / Curiosity / Looks Entertaining / Don't Go**

Now there's a time gap between chapters thirty-three and thirty-four because at the time that they had left the land of Padanaram, Dinah was less than six years old. And now she comes into the story at this point and obviously is older than that.

Oh you young girls, heed this passage. Dinah sees and hears what is going on in this place, and she goes and checks it out. The resultant is that she is defiled, violated. There are places that we as children of God need not go to. Don't let your curiosity; the trinkets and bobbles draw you to places you should not be. Shechem was an evil carnal place, and it was not where someone from the family of Israel (governed by God) was to be. So many things look so entertaining, they draw our appetite of the flesh, and we think we can go without any consequences, but this is what Satan wants to do through them, defile and violate you. Don't go to Shechem, don't go see the daughters of the land. That goes for you to guys.

Dinah's looking to see what the daughters of the land are doing and this is what they're doing and we're going to read after the deception of Reuben and Simeon. And after they go, and kill all the men of Shechem, we're going to find that Dinah was still there. In the house of Shechem. She had never left or she returned. because this covenant hadn't been settled, and therefore, she hadn't been given to Shechem. It was all a deception. And so the point is, she goes to Shechem, and she sees where Shechem girls were doing. And here she is, seduce and taken in by force.

But in a place, you shouldn't have ever been. Not that that excuses Shechem's action by any means. But surely, doesn't excuse Jacob and Leah for not being one together on the matter and go, "No, we don't want you going there. We know what the daughters are Shechem are like. That's why. I went all the way to Haran to find my wife. That's why your grandfather Abraham sent the servant all the way to Haran to find a wife for your grandfather, Isaac.

Mind you that Dinah is the daughter of Leah, and she would have witnessed that. her perception of intimacy was these occasional visits by Jacob. She never witnessed a family. living together. portraying what, love was, instead, all that she recognized was separation. She saw her mother, desperate for love and to be loved, and there she is. She seems to be following the same footsteps of her mother.

### **The City Isn't to Change Us – But Us Them**

A city isn't to change us, a job isn't to change us. We are to change the city. We are the change the job workers. We are to change the neighbourhood. We are to change the youth sports community that our kids are part of or whatever our kids extracurricular is. We are called to be change agents, not to be changed by the world

**(Genesis 34:2 NKJV) And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.**

**(Genesis 34:3 NKJV) His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman.**

**(Genesis 34:4 NKJV) So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife."**

**(Genesis 34:5 NKJV) And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came.**

### **Jacob Outnumbered**

Jacob probably outnumbered so he keeps quiet until the boys come back from the field.

**(Genesis 34:6 NKJV) Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.**

### **Father to Father Talk / Doesn't Think it is Wrong - Unregenerate People**

Father to father talk. Notice on father does not think anything wrong has happened. Unregenerate people can do the most horrible things to you, and they just continue on in everyday life not even thinking they have hurt you.

**(Genesis 34:7 NKJV) And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.**

### **Brothers Enraged**

The brothers become enraged because of the defilement of their sister.

**(Genesis 34:8 NKJV) But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife.**

**(Genesis 34:9 NKJV) "And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves.**

**(Genesis 34:10 NKJV) "So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it."**

**(Genesis 34:11 NKJV) Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give.**

**(Genesis 34:12 NKJV) "Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife."**

### **Notice Different Value - the World / How Much for a Rape / Good for Business**

Again notice how the world puts a different value on the things that are sacred to us. How many goats and chickens equal one rape they are asking. Besides merging our families will be great for business and the local economy.

### **The Scheming Begins**

So now Jacob's boys start their scheming for revenge:

**(Genesis 34:13 NKJV) But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.**

**(Genesis 34:14 NKJV) And they said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us.**

**(Genesis 34:15 NKJV) "But on this condition we will consent to you: If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised,**

**(Genesis 34:16 NKJV) "then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.**

**(Genesis 34:17 NKJV) "But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone."**

**(Genesis 34:18 NKJV) And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.**

**(Genesis 34:19 NKJV) So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was more honorable than all the household of his father.**

### **Buy Into It / Circumcision - Cutting Away the Flesh / Good for the Flesh**

Now Shechem has to get everybody else to buy into it. Amazingly other grown men are going to say ok, circumcision, sounds great. Circumcision was an example of the cutting away of the flesh, but in this case since it had no spiritual meaning, it was the things of the flesh that would talk them into it. Hey it is going to be good for business, and we will get their woman too.

**(Genesis 34:20 NKJV) And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying:**

**(Genesis 34:21 NKJV) "These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters.**

**(Genesis 34:22 NKJV) "Only on this condition will the men consent to dwell with us, to be one people: if every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised.**

**(Genesis 34:23 NKJV) "Will not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us."**

### **Prosperity will be Ours / Worth the Pain / OT vs Family**

Notice all this will be ours, livestock, property, and their woman. Prosperity will be ours. It's worth a little pain to get that much prosperity. People do that still today, so I'll sacrifice all these hours at work, won't see my family, but it will be worth it for all the prosperity to come.

**(Genesis 34:24 NKJV) And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son; every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.**

**(Genesis 34:25 NKJV) Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.**

### **Took only 2**

As they recover the attack came. It only took 2 men to kill them all.

### **If Out of Will of God – Do Same Things the World Does**

So here is the two brothers going and doing this mass destruction upon these people. And now we see they're just as guilty and doing horrible things. as what Shechem did in the beginning. It was one man Shechem, yet they take revenge against the whole city. And we see a great point here, and all of us have to be wary of it because we could all be taken into it when you are out of the will of God. And that's what Reuben and Simeon are out of the will of God and what they're doing. going to take a whole city and destroy all of them and then take their possessions and their women and children, the very thing that appalled them, they are surely not in the will of God, and here we can find ourselves that when we're not in the will of God. we can be reacting and acting just like the world does. The very things that we would be appalled of if we read it or watched the news or put it up in a prophecy update. If you're out of the will of God, you could find yourself doing the same things with hatred, with bitterness, with resentment, with vengeance, with revenge, with destruction, with gossip. We all must be careful. Are we in the will of God for what we're doing?

### **Important to Know the Will of God**

It's so important for us to know the will of God, and it just staves off problems in the future When we know what the will of God is, we're obedient to the will of God, even when we want to act in the flesh, but we let the will of God have its way. It just keeps us from so many problems. Well, how do I know what the will of God is, you may say? Well, here we are studying the will of God, saying Lord speak to us right now. We might be in a situation like Simeon Reuben and Dinah right now and Jacob....Say, God speaking to us.

Slow down. As we always say, it's just that place, be still (Psalm 46:10) and know that I'm God. Let his word be a lamp unto our feet (Psalm 119:105). We can say, hey you say that all the time, but there's nothing really deeper that we have to say anymore.

Jesus didn't go to a seminar when he was in the garden. He went to prayer. He asked the Lord, "Is there any other way? Jesus is praying according to the word of God, and he's getting confirmation from the Father, that there is no other way. Jesus is praying. The Scriptures foretold that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin, the foretelling of Isaiah 53, the foreshadowing of Psalm 22 back to the whole beginning there in Genesis 3, and it was a lamb that was covered and slain to cover Adam and Eve's sin. Jesus prayed, in accordance with the Word, and God was confirming. And when Judas comes with the detachment of troops, the great commander in chief doesn't respond because He's not gonna let. their flesh get in the way of what the Spirit says needs to be done, because there was no other way. And when He standing with a bunch of religious hypocrites, slapping him in the face, if anyone should have been slapped in the face, it was them, but he wouldn't let. the flesh of man turn him into retaliation and the flesh. He knew the will of God, and he knew the spiritual call of what was before him and therefore He could complete the mission. and say it is done. And so too can we!

**(Genesis 34:26 NKJV) And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out.**

### **Dinah Still There**

Dinah was still there; we don't know why Dinah returned (or she never left). It could very well be the shame that she felt she could never be wanted again because of what happened. And so here she finds herself returning to the place she knew she was accepted, even if it was in such a poor way, but I can see those first steps, how often they lead to a progression of shame, that then it becomes acceptable along the way.

**(Genesis 34:27 NKJV) The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.**

**(Genesis 34:28 NKJV) They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field,**

**(Genesis 34:29 NKJV) and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses.**

### **The Plunder**

The rest of the family comes and takes the spoils.

**(Genesis 34:30 NKJV) Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I."**

### **Jacob Cared What World Thought**

Here's what Jacob, and here's what happens when you run the wrong place. You start getting affected by the wrong things and principles. And here he is, all he cares about is what the community going to think of and what the people around him are going to think of him. It's like. He's not caring. What does the Lord think about this? What is this going to pass on to the generations of my sons and daughters and grandchildren of what just happened? He just immediately comes and he looks at himself. And it's a sad place to be. He wrestled with the Lord at Bethel. He saw the Lord face to face in Penuel. But he couldn't make the full journey back down to Hebron, where he was told to go to meet Issac.. The place of fellowship is what Hebron means. And here he is carrying more what the world thinks than what God thinks, who wrestled with him and saw face to face and broke him. And so too. how many people with their actions can be more concerned what the church thinks and what's the people at work are going to think of these type of things rather than, what do you think about these things that have happened?'

Because we don't think what God thinks or cares what God cares, we will never call upon the name of the Lord, and never seek a change. We'll never ask Him in to come and make a change in what just happened in the situation. But there's a place when you come and you're willing to die to yourself and your reputation, because God's glory and God's honor is at stake, and you call upon him. Oh, that you might be glorified and not shamed. Tell me what to do, what not to do and there you'll find power when your life goes that I might bring you glory, but I might do these things to bring you glory. And when I'm as shamed you, convict me, give me strength and help me to repent and face up to my wrong. so that I can let everybody know what's wrong and what's right before you

### **The World Should Stink to Us**

We care that we stink in front of the world we should care more that the world stinks in front of us and we shouldn't be surprised that the world thinks we stink because of our faith. Jesus said marvel not that the world hates you, for they hated me, and the stench that we put off our brother Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says, it's because we have the fragrance of life for those who want life in the Spirit of God, and we have the fragrance of death for those who don't want to repent and bow the knee to the great I am Jesus Christ.

*John 15:18–20 (NKJV)<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

*2 Corinthians 2:14–16 (NKJV)<sup>14</sup> Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. <sup>15</sup> For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?*

### **Should Have Called a Prayer Meeting**

Jacob is worried about the retaliation that's gonna come what he should've done immediately should've called the whole family together. Should've called the whole family together after the news of the defilement and have a prayer meeting. But he didn't. What he should have did right here after this butchery, he should have called the whole family together, all the wives, all the children, all the servants, and had a prayer meeting calling upon the name of the Lord. who in finding help in his time and need. And that's what we need to do when life's events come upon us, call a prayer meeting with your family. with friends that you have. Husband, wife, draw together, pray together, bring the kids together. Don't let prayer be so distant that you can't have a prayer meeting. People think it odd that you do make it routine, even so make it daily call upon the name of the Lord and find help in time of need. A God who says, call to me and I will answer you. Show you great and mighty things what you do not know.

**(Genesis 34:31 NKJV) But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"**

### **Jacob Upset / One Step / Rationalize It / Moving form Center of God's Will**

Jacob is upset with his sons, but Jacob has to consider this, he was the one who placed his tent facing this evil city. Often that one step of disobedience compounds into a major issue. We step out of God's will and start to do our own thing and even though we may rationalize it, it is disobedience to God's will for us. Incomplete obedience, that failure to submit your life to the will and plan of God, can lead to all kind of problems and to disasters such as happened to Jacob. You will find yourself in situations and wonder how you got there; but, it all began with moving away from the center of God's will.

### **No Place for Gods Kids / Always Ends up in Trouble**

There are places where you and I, as a child of God have no business being. If you go into those places, you are stepping out of the purpose and plan of God for your life and you can find yourself enmeshed in all kinds of tragic situations just because you're where God doesn't want you to be. Look at all the trouble that Samson brought upon himself every time he ventured into the land of the Philistines, which was the camp of the enemy. He always ended up in trouble and it finally ended with his death.

### **Think You are Strong Enough / Clubbing**

You may think you're strong enough to go and that you just go to watch and not participate. You want to see what they do.." We have no business being in those type of places and this kind of rationale doesn't work. The moment you step into the enemy's territory and out of the will of God, you're opening the door and you can be sure you're going to be facing some major problem. Just a note, you young Christians that think you can go to bars and nightclubs and it is not going to effect you, you are being greatly deceived, either by Satan, your flesh, or your friends. I know of no bars that have helped Christians grow deeper in their knowledge and love for their Lord.

### **You Strong - Kids Not / Parents Don't be Shocked / Evil Places - Immorality Flaunted**

You may think you are strong enough, but you might just be setting your kids up. Jacob allowed his kids to check out the things in Shechem, he was the one who allowed his daughter to visit the daughters of Shechem. Parents don't be shocked when you find out defilement has taken place, or when you hear terrible things have happened to your children, because it could be because you allowed your kids to go places that you knew in your heart were evil, where you knew immorality was flaunted, and the things of God were not respected.

### **Parents take Stance / Teach Them to Go Against Flow / Daily Battle no Rest / Joshua 24 - Me and My House**

Mom and dad take a stance, encourage and teach your kids to be different. Lead them and teach them how to go against the flow. Stand against the "that is just our culture" attitude, against the "that's where all the kids go". This battle is daily, there is no rest for us. We must be aware of what they are watching, where they are going, who they are hanging with, Shechem is just outside our doors. Teach them to go against the flow, it doesn't matter if everybody is going there:

*(Joshua 24:15 NKJV) "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

### **Legalism / Pastor - Chaplain Experience / Be Firm /**

You may say I am being legalistic, overbearing, what about that grace I just spoke of. Listen I am talking from experience of Pastoring this church, and I am telling you from being a police chaplain; There are Dinah's in our family who are wondering what the daughters of Shechem are up to, and they go, and they get sucked in. We have to be firm for our kids, because the school and community is not going to look out for them.

### **Teen Places - Just Make a Buck**

There are places in the county that are promoted as "places for teens", but I can tell you they are places that adults see a great place to make a buck, and they have no care if the kids are entering into immoral and damages things. I can tell you from talking to the kids that there is drugs and alcohol there. The management there turns a blind eye because they get 5 dollars a kid at the door, and they don't care where the kids go once the parents drive away.

### **Stand in the Gap**

Yea we look like the bad guy when we say no you are not going there, but if you don't stand in the gap for them, who will:

*(Ezekiel 22:29 NKJV) "The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger."*

*(Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV) "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."*

### **Be Bad Guy / Give Alternative / Sacrifice / That's a Bondservant**

Be the bad guy, but provide an alternative for them. It may mean you don't get that night off, but that is the life of a bondservant, and that is what you are.

### **Peer Pressure upon the Parent**

Hey parents, we always talk about our kids and their peer pressure. Don't you think for a moment that you're not affected by peer pressure and I mean the peer pressure that the children bring when they put the pressure on you. Saying but all the kids are going here. All the kids are going to be there. You suffocate me. You're legalistic. You put me into a prison, and then the peer pressure comes across, and upon the parent and they yield to it, and they let their child go to a place that they know. It's not of the Lord. It's a place their kids shouldn't be. The first level of peer pressure, fortification needs to be the parent, and I'll tell you, parent, it can't be the day of the prom. It has to be the years leading up to the prom, or that call of what we know will come their way. We need to be investing in them today and we can't just say don't go here. We have to provide them a place for them to go somewhere that is wholesome and be part of it and sacrifice whatever it may be. But the fortification of peer pressure, we need to be that first level, yes, at some point, they're going to have to become their own person making their own decisions. But we guard them until they're old enough, mature enough in the things of the Lord and the knowledge of the Lord, that they've grown in wisdom and the knowledge of the Lord, to make these wise decisions.

**(Genesis 35:1 NKJV) Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."**

### **Glad for these Words – Arise & Go / We Promise / But He Says – Arise & Go**

I'm glad to hear these words of the Lord to Jacob, they minister to me – Arise and Go. We all have been to Succoth and Shechem, after our conversion that is. How many times we have been there when we

promised and vowed to Him that we would never go back there again. But then, there we are again, and what does He say to us? His words of love to His precious children – Arise and go to Bethel. Ohh what a picture of grace, what a picture of love. He is so worthy of praise, so worthy of our all in all, for He is so good to us. His mercy, grace and love abound to us:

*(Psalms 103:8 NKJV) The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.*

*(Psalms 106:1 NKJV) Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

*(Lamentations 3:22 NKJV) Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.*

*(Lamentations 3:23 NKJV) They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

## **Church Ephesus**

The Lord speaking to the Church in Ephesus He said:

*(Revelation 2:4 NIV) Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.*

## **Times to go back / Putting Everything Aside / First Saved**

There are times for all of us to go back to that place. I think for many it just putting everything aside, the business of life, the works of ministry, the squeezing it all together, and just go back and sit with Him, fellowship with Him, back to the basic, back to the day we got saved. When I got saved things were simple, I love you Lord, I love just being saved and nothing else matters. This Word is fresh fruit to my soul, I love talking about you and telling people about you. Maybe that's you, your walk has become work, cut those things loose and just go back to Bethel.

## **Jacob Back to Bethel / Luz to House of God**

God calls Jacob back to Bethel, where Jacob saw the ladder, and saw the connection between god and man, heaven and earth - Jesus Christ (John 1). That place was called Luz, but Jacob changed it to "House of God". God says come on back to where we began, Arise and Go.

**(Genesis 35:2 NKJV) And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.**

**(Genesis 35:3 NKJV) "Then 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 in the way which I have gone."**

**(Genesis 35:4 NKJV) So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.**

## **Jacob Knew Idolatry**

Jacob knows what's going on. And now he's facing it. He's gonna use this. great catastrophe in their home to turn things around. He knew they were worshipping and following after false gods. They probably picked them up, not just in Laban, but they picked them up here and She where they're living. And Jacob says, put them all away. Destroy him. Separate from the unclean things. Don't let them become part of you.

## **Picked Up Trinkets Along the Way**

They had picked up all these trinkets of the heathen nations around them, beginning back in Padan Aram when Rachel stole her father Laban's idols. Now Jacob says we are going to the House of God, these things have got to go.

## **Doesn't say I'm Done with You / Jacob Responds**

God doesn't start verse 1 off with that is it, I'm done with you, I'm going to work this thing out with someone else, you had your chance Jacob, instead God says Arise and Go. God meets Jacob even in his disobedience and says Arise. Jacob responds to God's goodness:

*(Romans 2:4 NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

## **We Respond**

When we experience His goodness and mercy, it is no longer I got to, but I get to, I'm going to, for Lord you are so good to me, how can't I respond to such love and grace.



### **God Invites Whole Family – All their Problems**

Notice the Lord invites Jacob and his whole family to Bethel. He invites them with all their problems, all their stinkiness, even their terrible reputation (Genesis 34:30):

*(Genesis 34:30 KJV) And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.*

God says come Jacob, come with all your problems. God says that to us today, got problems in your family, bring them all to me.

### **Buries at the Tree / Picture of the Cross / Bring it All to the Cross**

*Verse 4 - and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem:* Jacob buries them under the tree there at Shechem. The tree is a picture of the cross, and God says bring all your failings, all the things you idolize, all the things that put you in bondage, all the things that take you away from the Lord, and bring them to the cross. Confess them, bury them, and move on from them, and move on to fellowship with the Him.

### **Give God a Christmas Gift / Posters – Magazines – Links – CD's**

Hey Christian you want to give a Christmas gift to God this year, go through your house and gather all those things that draw you away from the Lord and bury them at the bottom of the dumpster. Is it those posters in the garage, those magazine in the chest, those Favorite links on the internet, those CD's that feed your flesh, take them to the tree and bury them. Merry Christmas Lord, amazingly, that is a gift to Him, because He wants to see His children doing well.

### **May Need Piece of Paper / Looks Different on Paper**

You may need to get that piece of paper out and write them down, and then throw them in the fireplace, or run them through the shredder. It is interesting what your sin looks like on a piece of paper, in front of you. Maybe it is gossip, bitterness, lust, hatred, put it on a piece of paper and have it look you right in the eye and that sin looks a whole lot different to you. Take it to the tree, bury them there, and move on to the House of God.

### **Not Just Penalty – But Power**

Remember Christian, Jesus did not just go to the cross for the penalty of sin, but also to give us power over sin:

*(2 Peter 1:2 NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,*

*(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

*(2 Peter 1:4 NKJV) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*(2 Peter 1:5 NKJV) But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,*

### **Moral Excellence**

Virtue means “moral excellence”, and that is you saying these things have got to go, excellence is the mark I am going for.

### **Don't Sell Them**

Just a note, those trinkets that Jacob buried were worth money in that evil and immoral town of Shechem. Jacob could have sold them and had a treat like Starbucks for the road, but notice that Jacob buries them there. Good example for us, when you clean up the music library, that magazine rack, that wardrobe, don't sell it to someone else so they can be sucked into those things, bury them at the bottom of the dumpster.

### **As For Me and My House**

I love Joshua and the declaration that he makes to the nation and his family, as for me and my house, we choose to serve the Lord. Do you make that declaration in your home?

*Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)<sup>15</sup> And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

**(Genesis 35:5 NKJV) And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.**

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

#### **Never Out of His Grace – But Sometimes Peace**

Verse six notice that we are never out of the grace of God and notice God's great grace in Jacob's life will never be out of the grace of God, .....but we can surely be out of the peace of God, because of the situations that we put ourselves in, where we're not obedient. And you can be in the hardest situation and be there because of obedience that God called you to a place to stay. And in the midst of the hardest place, not only will you have the grace of God, holding you and ministering to you and being your help in time of need, but even in the hardest of place, you can have the peace of God, because you know you're in his will.

#### **God's Protection / Get Moving / No Man – Gov't - Pgm**

We see God's protection upon them. God said to them go to Bethel, so if God said that to them, then they will make it there. If God has told you to do something, then get moving and do it, don't worry about the people around you and what they may say or try to do to stop you. No man, government, or program can stop the plans that God has for your life, only you can by you sin of disobedience.

**(Genesis 35:7 NKJV) And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother.**

#### **El Bethel / Not looking for Place – But God**

Now he calls the place "El Bethel". So it isn't just the house of God, it is now the God of the house of God. We see a mark of growth for Jacob. Jacob isn't just looking for the place, he is now looking for the God of that place.

#### **Not Church / Calvary Chapel & Word / They are Doors**

I think that is important for many Christians. It isn't the church, it is the God of that church. I see too often people are so into their church, they put more emphasis on the church than the God of the church. The same is for the Bible, so again be careful those in Calvary Chapel's; it is not the Bible, it is the God of the Bible. The Bible, the Church, they are doors to bring you before the Lord. The Bible is opened so we can have a dialog with Him. It is not to read about Him, but to meet Him. When you open your Bible, start with establishing in your mind that you are opening this Word to meet with Him. It is the same with Church, yes we come to fellowship with each other, but we come to church to meet with Him. They are doors we go through to come meet and fellowship with Him. We need to be reminded of these things, and when we remember them, they will take on a whole new meaning to us. If not, then it will be easy to be drawn away from church, and to be drawn away from the Word.

**(Genesis 35:8 NKJV) Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the terebinth tree. So the name of it was called Allon Bachuth.**

#### **Jacob's Nanny / Special Bond / Sad Times in Good Places**

Deborah was Jacob's Nanny, she was Rebekah's his mother's nurse/servant. Deborah and Jacob had a special bond I am sure. You know Believer, sad times do happen even when we are in the House of God, even when we are where we are suppose to be.

**(Genesis 35:9 NKJV) Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him.**

**(Genesis 35:10 NKJV) And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel.**

## **God Reaffirms the Name / You are Still my Man / God Reminds Us**

God reaffirms to Jacob that you are still my man. You use to be a schemer and a conniver, but I have given you a new name, you are/will be governed by God. I love it when God does that to me, when I am feeling down, worthless, a master at failing, and the Lord comes and speaks to me through His Word, a message of a Teacher, in my prayer time, and He reminds me that I am still His boy, and that He has plans for me. He is a good God.

## **The Plateau**

Verse 9 Padam Aram means plateau and there's a place that we can plateau (level out) in our walk, and stay there for years, maybe even decades. And then God does something or allows something. And then he takes us to a new height and a new place and takes us off of that plateau and takes us into the deeper, higher ground with him. That's what He's doing in Jacob right now.

We can reach a place that we're not even excited about the things of God. They're just routine. It's all just a flat plane at this point. Nothing excites us or takes us higher. When once we used to be so excited about the Word of God, we used to be so excited about fellowshiping. We used to be so excited the opportunity to serve in any way. And then they all just became a plateau. A routine, and nothing took us higher.

**(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.**

## **Be Fruitful & Multiply**

Be fruitful and multiply Verse 11, I love the beauty of this in that all I have to do is abide(John 15). It's not up to me to produce the fruit. Acts chapter 2, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they spoke in tongues. But it wasn't the tongues of the unknown heavenly language. It was the tongues, of known languages. Known amongst the world, and the gift of tongues was so that the gospel could be proclaimed and declared clearly to everyone to understand. the fruit that we bear's a spiritual fruit, not just a reproductive fruit of offsprings, but spiritual offsprings, as we're abiding in him, as we're in the place that we should be, that we've moved on and higher from the flat plane that we once were, and the joy of the Lord overflowing us, the fruit of the Spirit that's in us, of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness and self-control that people can come and pick of and worship the Lord who gives freely these things and they can partake and taste, what God has put in and given to us because we simply abide with him. And there's an overflowing because we worship. There's an overflowing because the word of God has its free course. There's a fruit that comes because of our fellowship. There's a fruit that is just presence because he's present in our life. because in his presence, his fullness of joy, and when we are walking in this place with him, the joy is overflowing and being fruitful, multiplying to the ends of the earth [John 15:4 \(NKJV\)<sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.](#)

[Galatians 5:22–23 \(NKJV\)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.](#)

**(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."**

## **Replay of Genesis 17 with Abraham**

Does this sound familiar, it should, it is a replay for Jacob's grandfather Abraham:

*(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*

*(Genesis 17:2 NKJV) "And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."*

*(Genesis 17:3 NKJV) Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:*

*(Genesis 17:4 NKJV) "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.*

*(Genesis 17:5 NKJV) "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.*

*(Genesis 17:6 NKJV) "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.*

*(Genesis 17:7 NKJV) "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*

*(Genesis 17:8 NKJV) "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

### **EI Shaddai / Might & Nurture**

And so as the Lord appeared to Abraham, so does He appear to Jacob and told him that He was the Almighty God or El Shaddai. This is the first mention of "El Shaddai", "Almighty God" in the Bible. "El" comes from the word that means "the strong arm". It is a word for masculine might. It gives the picture of a mighty God saying I will see you through, I will uphold you. The word "shad" is breast in Hebrew and is the place of life and nourishment for the babe. So, God is telling Abraham that He is the place of his life and nourishment and that Abraham is dependent upon Him.

### **Be Fruitful – Great Nation – King of kings / The Land**

God tells him to be fruitful and multiply, that he will be a great nation, that kings shall come from him (and we know the promise to the lineage is that the King of kings shall come through them), and then God tells him that the Land will be his descendants forever.

**(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."**

### **A Word on the Land / America – Prez Bush**

A word on the land, notice the "land which I gave"; it is God's land, for He owns the world so He owns that piece of land we know as the Promised Land which comprises Israel and then some today. He gave it to Abraham, then He gave it to Isaac, and then He gave it to Jacob – Israel. God renews the covenant with Jacob. Now I do love America's support for Israel, the way they bless and protect Israel, stand beside them when no one else does, and stand up for them. But I do worry for our country when we start meddling with whose land it is, when we start trying to broker peace for Israel by dictating to them to give up some of the Land to the Palestinians. President Bush needs to remember that the land belongs to God, and He gave it to Israel and his descendants. It would be wise for him not to try to force the nation Israel's hand into giving pieces of it away. Let the leaders of Israel decide what they will give up or not give up, but keep America out of giving it away, and keep focus on blessing them, for God will bless those that bless them:

*(Genesis 12:3 NKJV) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

**(Genesis 35:13 NKJV) Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.**

**(Genesis 35:14 NKJV) So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it.**

### **Symbols of Jesus & Spirit**

The drink offering was wine. So here we see the symbols of the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit. We see the trinity here of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is power in the blood, and there is power in the Spirit:

*(Zechariah 4:6 NKJV) So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

**(Genesis 35:15 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.**

**(Genesis 35:16 NKJV) Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor.**

**(Genesis 35:17 NKJV) Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also."**

**(Genesis 35:18 NKJV) And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.**

**(Genesis 35:19 NKJV) So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).**

### **Why Leave Bethel / Be in House of God**

Ephrath is Bethlehem. But the question has to be asked, Jacob why would you leave the House of God? Why would he take a pregnant wife on such a journey. When he was only a little distance away from the

House of God his beloved wife dies. You know Christian when hardship comes in our lives, we want to be in the House of God for it is there that we can be comforted by the wine and the oil, the blood and the Spirit.

### **People Leave / People Drift / Death in Family**

I know the Lord calls people on, and we miss them, but know God is working in their life. But I hate it when I see people leave fellowship, drift away to nowhere, and in many cases, there is a death in the family (in a spiritual sense), as they quit fellowshipping with the Lord, they forget the wine and the oil, they dry up and die. Christian stay where the wine and the oil has been poured out.

**(Genesis 35:20 NKJV) And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.**

### **Rachel Dies in her Desire**

I remind you back to that day when Rachel was jealous of her sister Leah and her 4 kids and she grabs Jacob and says give me children or I die:

*(Genesis 30:1 NKJV) Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"*

*(Genesis 30:2 NKJV) And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"*

### **Christian Careful what you Crave**

You know Christian the very thing you crave or desire may be the very thing that kills you. High School girls just got to have that boy, singles just got to be married, just got to have that job, just got to have that home, those very things may be the very thing that leads you down the wrong path, away from God, into destruction or ruin.

### **Be Content**

We must be as Paul said to be, learn to be content in all things:

*(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

*(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

*(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

### **Rich Symbolism**

Notice such rich symbolism when Israel comes back to the land, the blessings follow when the altar is established and not the altar of a temple, but the altar of the worship of Jesus Christ

Rachel dies in Bethlehem, where the sheep for the temple would be raised and therefore examine by the rabbis that only perfect sheep could go to the temple for sacrifice. Migdal-Edar, we've read the watchtower. where they would watch over the lamb. And then here's where Rachel dies and she bears a son who has dual meaning. She calls him son of Sorrow, but Jacob calls him Son of my right hand, and here we see Jesus, a man acquainted with sorrow, but he is seated now at the right hand of the throne of God, living to make intercession for you and I. Praise God. Let's do communion.

**Micah 4:8 (NKJV)<sup>8</sup>** And you, O tower of the flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."

**Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)<sup>3</sup>** He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

**Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)<sup>2</sup>** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Romans 8:34–35 (NKJV)<sup>34</sup>** Who is he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**(Genesis 35:21 NKJV) Then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.**

**(Genesis 35:22 NKJV) And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:**

### **Jacob Silent / Idols – Dinah – Slaughter Shechem - Concubine**

You know sometimes silence is golden, and sometimes silence is just plain ole wrong. We have seen the silence of Jacob over his lifetime, and his family pays for it. Jacob was silent when:

- Rachel stole the idols from Laban. It is many years later before he says out they go.
- Jacob was silent when Dinah went to Shechem, we don't read of him forbidden her to go to such an evil place.
- We see him silent when his sons are scheming the evil plane against the men of Shechem, and then silent from stopping them from doing it.
- And here he is silent again when his son Ruben does such a horrible thing like this, sleeping with his own fathers concubine. In chapter 49 he will rebuke their deeds, but is silent here.

### **His Silence Began in Padan Aram / Abraham – Spiritual Directness**

I suggest to you that his silence all the way back in Padan Aram, when Rachel stole the idols was a pattern he never broke, a stance he would never take. His father Abraham gave us the best example with Lot, Abraham exercised "spiritual directness" he went to Lot and said the situation is not good, there is too many of us and not enough land, we need to do something. We need this in our families, our friendships, and in the church.

### **Tell Our Kids / Be Direct with Family – Church - Friends**

We need to tell our kids, this is wrong, I don't care how much of a fight it costs us, for silence can lead our families the way of Jacob's. Our friendships in the church and elsewhere, too many friendships are ended because people are silent, and things get misunderstood and people leave each other upset. Talk, silence isn't always golden.

**(Genesis 35:23 NKJV) the sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun;**

**(Genesis 35:24 NKJV) the sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin;**

**(Genesis 35:25 NKJV) the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali;**

**(Genesis 35:26 NKJV) and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Padan Aram.**

The 12 sons of Israel, which make up the 12 tribes of Israel that will be important for us to know as we study the history of Israel, and End Times Prophecy.

**(Genesis 35:27 NKJV) Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.**

**(Genesis 35:28 NKJV) Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.**

**(Genesis 35:29 NKJV) So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.**

So here we see the death of Isaac. We see Jacob and Esau together to bury their father.

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*