

Genesis 35

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SERMON NOTES

People, Places and Things of Genesis 35

PEOPLE

God - 10x	Deborah	Reuben	Joseph
El Shaddai	Rebekah	Simeon	Benjamin
Jacob - 17x	Leah	Levi	Dan
Israel - 5x	Rachel	Judah	Naphtali
Isaac - 5x	Bilhah	Issachar	Gad
Abraham - 2x	Zilpah	Zebulun	Asher
Esau - 2x	The midwife		

PLACES

Shechem	El-Bethel	Ephrath	Hebron
Luz	Canaan	Bethlehem	Kiriath-Arba
Bethel	Paddan-Aram	Mamre	

THINGS

Terebinth Tree	Allon-Bacuth	Pillar of Rachel's Tomb
Oak Tree	Pillar at Bethel	Tower of Eder

Genesis 35

Turning Towards Home

1. Returning to the Lord comes by God's initiative.
2. Returning to the Lord comes with a promise.
3. Returning to the Lord comes with a new name.
4. Returning to the Lord is a way of life.

"The point is that we can never take God by surprise. We can never anticipate Him. He always makes the first move. He is always there 'in the beginning.' Before we existed, God took action. Before we decided to look for God, God had already been looking for us. The Bible isn't about people trying to discover God, but about God reaching out to find us."

- John Stott, *Basic Christianity*

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you."

- *Genesis 28:15*

"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

- *Acts 3:19*

"Although claiming my true identity as a child of God, I still live as though the God to whom I am returning demands an explanation. I still think about His love as conditional and about home as a place I am not yet fully sure of. While walking home, I keep entertaining doubts about whether I will be truly welcome when I get there... I am not yet able to fully believe that where my failings are great, 'grace is always greater.'"

- Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*

"Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion."

- Brennan Manning, *Abba's Child*

"Guidance, like all God's acts of blessing under the covenant of grace, is a sovereign act. Not merely does God will to guide us in the sense of showing us His way, that we may tread it; he wills also to guide us in the more fundamental sense of ensuring that, whatever happens, whatever mistakes we may make, we shall come safely home. Slippings and straying there will be, no doubt, but the everlasting arms are beneath us; we shall be caught, rescued, restored. This is God's promise; this is how good He is."

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*