

Part Three: “Blessings at Bethel”

Genesis 35:1-15

REVIEW/INTRO

God told Jacob to get out of Shechem and go up to Bethel:

- Shechem was a real place, but to us it symbolizes the world’s ways apart from God

Bethel (“house of God”) was the place:

- Where Jacob built an altar to God
- Of answered prayer
- Where God revealed Himself to Jacob
- Of God’s protection
- Of influence
- Of brokenness

Bethel is also the place of **BLESSING**

Genesis 35:9

HOW DID GOD BLESS JACOB?

1. The blessing of a new _____.

This speaks of transformational change in a person’s character and identity

Genesis 35:10

It all started on the day that Jacob was born

Genesis 25:24-26

Jacob = “cheater, deceiver, supplanter”

Stigma = a mark of disgrace or infamy

- A stain or reproach on one’s reputation
- A characteristic mark or sign of defect

To stigmatize some one:

- To mark with a brand
- To set some mark of disgrace upon someone

At Bethel God gave Jacob a new name

Genesis 32:22-24

Genesis 32:27

When God asks a question, it’s not because of some lack of knowledge on His part

Genesis 32:28

“You are not who THEY say you are, you are who I say you are!”

If you will change your **LOCATION**, God will change your **CHARACTER**

2. Bethel is the place where God makes _____ to you.

Genesis 35:11-12

God gave a promise to Abraham and to Isaac, Jacob’s father and grandfather

- Jacob would never have realized that promise if he remained in Shechem

God can’t fulfill His promises to you unless you are where you are supposed to be

- The story of the Prodigal Son shows this the best...

Wrap-Up:

The road to Bethel will cost you something... but the benefits of being in Bethel are so much more!

Challenge to read the book of Acts during the 40-day fast