

Part Five: “From Bethel to Bethlehem”

Genesis 35:15-19

INTRO

Four words from these scriptures which will be our focus today:

1. Bethel = “_____ of God”

Bethel was the place where God revealed Himself to Jacob

Bethel was a REAL, physical place... it can also represent A PLACE to us:

- When we think of “the house of God”, we often think of CHURCH
- Nehemiah 13:11

There are things that will happen in the House, that won’t happen in your living room when you are all alone

- Matthew 18:20
- When we gather TOGETHER in God’s House:
 - Acts 2:1-4... people are filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Ephesians 4:16... brings us to spiritual maturity
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7... the spiritual gifts operate
 - Ephesians 4:11-13... the leadership gifts of the Body operate in God’s House
 - Psalm 92:12-15... you will flourish and prosper right into your old age

2. Ben-Oni = “Child of _____, or son of my trouble”

Jacob’s wife Rachel was expecting and it was close to the time of her giving birth

- Time for them to move on from Bethel to Bethlehem
- She was having great trouble (TRAVAIL) with the birthing of her son

Genesis 35:16-17

Without travail there will be no children born

- If you are going to birth new things, new life, new beginnings, there must come painful travail
- This speaks of PRAYER and INTERCESSION

Genesis 35:18

Rachel travailed and went through the valley of death, laying her life down for her son

- All of us, even after we have been to Bethel, will face valley’s
- All it produced for Rachel was “Ben-Oni”... sorrow, son of trouble

But then Jacob/Israel stepped in...

3. Benjamin = “son of my right _____; victorious one”

Genesis 35:18

It was AFTER Jacob had been to Bethel that he still faced another valley, and in that valley there was:

- Great pain and travail... brokenness, and sorrow, and death
- BUT, what would be produced in that valley for him was VICTORY

What have the valleys in YOUR life produced?

4. Bethlehem = “house of _____”

Genesis 35:19

When we go through Bethel...

- When we travail and a son that’s victorious is produced
- THEN we possess the “house of bread”

Bread is the basic sustenance of life

- Mark 6... Jesus feeds the multitudes
- “I am the Bread of Life” - Jesus

Wrap-Up...

Bethel is a place of dedication... but after Bethel – after the valley and the travail

- Comes the son of victory, AND
- We come to Bethlehem – “the house of bread”

If we find that we are living in Shechem... living by the standards and philosophies of this world’s system...

- Then God is urging us to turn our hearts back to Bethel... the house of God

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) — “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”