



BACK TO BETHEL

Genesis 35:1-15



Genesis 35:1 God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” **2** So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. **3** Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” **4** So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem. (ESV)

I. GOD GAVE JACOB THE CALL TO WORSHIP, 35:1-4

**A. The call to worship requires
construction.**

**B. The call to worship requires
cleansing.**

**C. The call to worship requires
consecration.**

I Chronicles 29:1 And David the king said to all the assembly, “Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the LORD God. 2 So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. 3 Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: 4 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, 5 and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the LORD?” (ESV)

Genesis 35:5 And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. **6** And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, **7** and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. **8** And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth. (ESV)

II. GOD IS TO BE THE CONCENTRATION OF WORSHIP, 35:5-8

- A. God is to be worshipped because He protects His people.**
- B. God is to be worshipped because He has revealed Himself to His people.**
- C. God is to be worshipped because He comforts His people.**

Genesis 35:9 God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. 10 And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. 11 And God 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 from your own body. 12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.” 13 Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. 14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. 15 So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel. (ESV)

III. GOD GAVE JACOB THE CONFIRMATION OF WORSHIP, 9-15

**A. When we worship we receive confirmation
of who we are, vv. 9-10**

**B. When we worship we receive confirmation
of who HE is, v. 11**

**C. When we worship we receive confirmation
of what HE has promised, vv. 12-15**

SUMMATION:

When we worship at the house of God we are called to concentrate on Who He is and who we are in Him, so that we may continue to declare His glory among those with whom we have contact in discipleship and fellowship.

BACK TO BETHEL

**1 Back to the Bible, the true Living Word,
Sweetest old story that ever was heard;
Back to the joy-life my soul longs to know,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**

Chorus:

**Back to Bethel I must go,
Back where the rivers of sweet waters flow,
Back to the joy life my soul longs to know,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**

BACK TO BETHEL

**2 Back to the beautiful path I once trod,
Back to the church and the people of God.
Out of the cold world of sin and its woe,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**

Chorus:

**Back to Bethel I must go,
Back where the rivers of sweet waters flow,
Back to the joy life my soul longs to know,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**

BACK TO BETHEL

**3 Back to the giving of money and time,
Back to the life of contentment sublime,
Back to protection the world cannot know,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**

Chorus:

**Back to Bethel I must go,
Back where the rivers of sweet waters flow,
Back to the joy life my soul longs to know,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**

BACK TO BETHEL

**4 Back to the prayer-life in Christ I once
knew, Back to its beautiful life-cleansing dew,
Back to help others to conquer each foe,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**

Chorus:

**Back to Bethel I must go,
Back where the rivers of sweet waters flow,
Back to the joy life my soul longs to know,
Bethel is calling, and I must go.**



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