

NOTES

November 26, 2017

Jacob Is Re-Named Israel

Genesis 35: 1-29

Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to 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 which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments; ³ and 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 wherever I have gone." ⁴ So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem. ⁵ As they journeyed, there was a great terror upon the cities which were around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. ⁶ So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. ⁷ He built an altar there, and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed Himself to him when he fled from his brother. ⁸ Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the oak; it was named Allon-bacuth. ⁹ Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. ¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name." Thus He called him Israel. ¹¹ God also 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 forth from you." ¹² "The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where He had spoken with him. ¹⁴ Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. ¹⁵ So Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him, Bethel. ¹⁶ Then they journeyed from Bethel; and when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and she suffered severe labor. ¹⁷ When she was in severe labor the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for now you have another son." ¹⁸ It came about as her soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni;

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but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day. ²¹ Then Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder. ²² It came about while Israel was dwelling in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine, and Israel heard of it. Now there were twelve sons of Jacob— ²³ the sons of Leah: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, then Simeon and Levi and Judah and Issachar and Zebulun; ²⁴ the sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin; ²⁵ and the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali; ²⁶ and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maid: Gad and Asher. These are the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram. ²⁷ Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre of Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned. ²⁸ Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years. ²⁹ Isaac breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, an old man of ripe age; and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Discussion Questions Genesis 35 1-29

1. Jacob instructed his family to put away foreign gods, to purify themselves, and to change their clothes as they prepared to build an altar at Bethel (verses 1-2). **How do we prepare ourselves today for a closer, more intimate and dedicated service to God? See James 4:5-10. What in your life needs to change to have a more intimate, joyful walk with God?**
2. God not only reiterated that Jacob's name was now Israel (verse 10), but God also revealed one of His names, **El Shaddai**, or **God Almighty** (verse 11). **How can knowing that our God is "almighty" change the way we trust Him and serve Him?**
3. The 35th chapter of Genesis ends with a review of Jacob's 12 sons (the founders of the 12 Tribes of Israel) and the death of Jacob's father, Isaac. It says in verse 29 that when Isaac died he was "**an old man of ripe age,**" literally, "**and satisfied with days.**" **What will it take for us to be "satisfied with days" when it's time for us to be with Jesus? Who do you know who could fit this description, satisfied with their lives when they pass into eternity?**

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