

Lesson 22 Genesis 34 - 35

Jacob Returns To Bethel

1. Instead of returning to Bethel immediately, as commanded by God (31:13 & 35:1) Jacob lingers at Shechem which is on the way from Peniel to Bethel. What passages show that Jacob's family is in danger of becoming so identified with their heathen neighbors' customs, morals and religious beliefs that God's plan for them could have been lost?

2. A. Do you think the rape of Dinah could have been avoided if Jacob, her brothers or Dinah herself had acted differently?

B. Could you relate 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 to this story?

17 Therefore, come forth from them and be separate," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will receive you

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

C. Did Shechem or Hamor show any sense of wrong doing?

3. What was the trouble Dinah's brothers brought to their entire family by their wicked action?

4. Do people today indulge in actions stemming from the same motive?

5. A. What verses show Jacob's strong moral disapproval of his son's conduct?

B. What do they say in self-defense?

Chapter 35

6. A. What two commands are given by God to Jacob in Gen.35:1?

1 God said to Jacob: Go up now to Bethel. Settle there and build an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.

B. Could you give the spiritual equivalent about God's call to the head of a family today?

7. Give three or more commands which Jacob gave to his family that signified repentance and re-consecration to God?

8. Give at least two results of restored fellowship with God that followed according to Gen.35:5-15.

5 Then, as they set out, a great terror fell upon the surrounding towns, so that no one pursued the sons of Jacob.

6 Thus Jacob and all the people who were with him arrived in Luz (now Bethel) in the land of Canaan.

7 There he built an altar and called the place El-Bethel,* for it was there that God had revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother.

8 Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died. She was buried under the oak below Bethel, and so it was named Allon-bacuth.*

9 On Jacob's arrival from Paddan-aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him.

10 God said to him: Your name is Jacob. You will no longer be named Jacob, but Israel will be your name. So he was named Israel.

11 Then God said to him: I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed an assembly of nations, will stem from you, and kings will issue from your loins.

12 The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you; and to your descendants after you I will give the land.

13 Then God departed from him.

14 In the place where God had spoken with him, Jacob set up a sacred pillar, a stone pillar, and upon it he made a libation and poured out oil.

15 Jacob named the place where God spoke to him Bethel.

9. *Challenge Question:* What is the significance of :

A. Ruben's shocking sin (see Gen.49:3-4)

3 "You, Reuben, my firstborn, my strength and the first fruit of my vigor, excelling in rank and excelling in power!

4 Turbulent as water, you shall no longer excel, for you climbed into your father's bed and defiled my couch to my sorrow.

B. The listing of Jacob's 12 sons by their birth mothers

10. *Challenge Question:* Compare Gen.35:22 with Ezekiel 8:12-13 and John 14:22-24.

Gen.35:22

22 While Israel was encamped in that region, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah, his father's concubine. When Israel heard of it, he was greatly offended.

Ezekiel 8:12-13

12 Then he said to me: Do you see, son of man, what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his idol chamber? They think: "The LORD cannot see us; the LORD has forsaken the land."

13 He said: You will see them practicing even greater abominations.

John 14:22-24

22 Judas, not the Iscariot,* said to him, "Master, [then] what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.