

## **God Blesses Jacob - Genesis 35**

### **First Southern Baptist Church - January 27, 2021**

#### **Introduction**

1. After Dinah and Shechem
2. Fear of the nations at 30
3. Change of leadership - who will lead (promise)
  - Deaths and sons efforts to take the role
    - Three deaths
    - Reuben with concubine
    - Last son born
    - Pillars and homeland
    - Promised re-given
    - Rehearse covenants/ promises of God
    - Sons are listed
    - Back to homeland
  - Genesis 36 is Esau's genealogy (remember Jacob and Esau)
4. Chapter 35-36 are transitional chapters
5. At the end of chapter 35 Esau and Jacob (together) bury their father - closure
6. Chapter 37 is the launching of the story of Joseph

#### **Genesis 35:6-14**

##### **I. Called out of Shalem (1-5)**

1. Go to Bethel - build me an altar
  - 30 years have passed since the last time he was here:
    - 20 years with Laban at Padamaram
    - 10 years at Shechem (chapter 34)
  - Shechem/ Shalem are the past... with it's rape, and gods... Bethel is their future
2. Tells household - God speaks to Jacob/ Israel, not to the whole community... the leadership is vested in Jacob
3. Put away gods (2)
  - \*-where did they come from?...
    - A) most likely the looting of the bodies of the people of Shechem after the murder of the rapers of Dinah
    - B) the earrings became the golden calf
    - C) Rachel stole Laban's gods
    - D) Make no other gods, have no other gods (Exodus 20)
  - bury them
  - put away sins... the past... a new land, under a jealous God
4. Altar (3)
  - gave up their gods (4)
5. God put a "terror" on the surrounding nations
  - fear of the nations at 34:30
6. God has always been with me wherever I've gone (3) - here is his "hope"
  - sometimes our distress is just to learn this... to learn of the "God who answered

me in the days of my distress”

## **II. At Luz (Bethel) (6-8)**

1. Built an altar
2. Named “Elbethel” - the God of Bethel
  - a subtle change from the place, to the God of the place
3. Fled from brother and returns again - at 28:19, named “Bethel” as he fled
  - so that I may “come again in peace” at verse 21
4. On his first trip to Bethel, God was “the God of Abraham and Isaac” (28:13) - now Jacob is Israel (new name) and God reveals Himself further as “El Shaddai” - a new name/ revelation (God Almighty)
5. Deborah dies (Rebekah’s nurse) (8)
  - Deaths in chapter 35
    - 1) Deborah - here
    - 2) Rachel at 19 - “as her soul was departing”
    - 3) Isaac at 29 - “yielded up his spirit”
  - \*implies life after death in Genesis - continuing beyond death

## **III. Remembering what God had Done (9-14)**

1. Appeared at Padanaram (9)
2. Jacob to Israel (10)
3. I am God Almighty (11)
4. Be fruitful and multiply (11)
  - God’s continuing will
5. Land given (12)
6. God left (13)
7. Pillar raised (14)
  - drink offering (poured out)
  - oil offering (anointing)
  - specific offerings are not given yet... but see Num. 28:7 for drink offering

## **IV. From Bethel toward Bethlehem (16-20)**

1. From Bethel (16)
2. Rachel in labor -Benjamin to Rachel (his “loved” wife)
3. Hard labor
4. Baby born
  - named “Benoni” (mom’s name) - means “son of my sorrow”
  - named “Benjamin” (dad’s name) - means “son of my right hand”
  - So Benjamin has two names... not unusual... note:
    - Jesus is a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief... but also
    - Jesus is the son of my right hand
5. Rachel died - pillar (19)
6. Rachel’s hard life:
  - on her wedding night her husband was given to another
  - lived in a jealous household (Leah)
  - cherished the idols of her father (31:19)

-longed inordinately for another son (30:1, 24) but died when he was born

## **V. Beyond Edar (21-26)**

1. Beyond Edar (21)
2. Reuben with concubine (22)
  - Bilhah is the maidservant of Rachel the favorite wife of Israel
  - remember Shechem and Simeon/ Levi
  - Reuben is the firstborn... but he shames his father
    - an affront to Jacob, but more so to God
    - proper sexual boundaries set in Leviticus
    - no motive is given, but seems to be for leadership/ power
  - did nothing... again
  - at 49:3-4 Reuben lost his birthright over this
3. Sons of Israel listed - 23-26

## **VI. Came to Mamre (27-29)**

1. Came to his father - Isaac
2. Isaac dies (29)
3. At the death of the old patriarch, Israel takes his place in the land of Canaan

As one life departed, another one began - 16-20

Enter "Joseph" (chapter 37)