

Genesis 35.1-15

God of New Beginnings

Man of Promise: Golden Child, Princeling, Chosen Grandson of Abe, Son of Isaac

CONSISTENTLY lived up to NAME – JACOB = Cheater, Thief, DECEIVER

Brother, Parents, Father in Law, Wives, Sons & Daughters – EVEN GOD!

Stepping STONES – WRUNGS of Ladder to PULL himself to Highest PLACE

What does GOD do to this UNWORTHY SCOUNDREL Jacob? LOVES him!

AGAIN and AGAIN – God shows Jacob MERCY and UNDESERVED GRACE

Jacob QUICK to Receive God's Blessings, KNOWS Desperately NEEDS them!

Soon RETURNS to OLD WAYS – Few Lessons learned School Hard Knocks

HIGH POINT of Jacob's Spiritual LIFE, Place called BETHEL "House of God"

Heard VOICE of God – VISION of Ladder into Heaven – VOW to Serve Him

What is your Spiritual Status as we Begin this YEAR OF OUR LORD – 2015?

Know God of Abe, Isaac, Jacob? Had Years of His Blessings, Mercy, Grace?

FUNDAMENTALLY Unchanged – Deception? Idols? Lusts? Broken Promises?

Perhaps person SITTING Next to you FOOLED – Play part of Christian WELL!

Mighty, Massive OIL TANKERS sail EARTH'S SEAS Precious PETRO Cargo

SHIPS So HEAVY can Take 10 kms to come to FULL STOP

If CUT ENGINES – Sail along STRONG in POWERLESS GLIDE for Miles

Princeling POWERLESS GLIDE, Cashing in ALL COINS of Covenant Blesng

10 or 15 YEARS passed RECONCILED w/ Esau & Returned to Promised Land

Just 30 kms from Holy Ground Bethel met God 30 yrs Before Too BUSY to Go

Your ENGINE FIRING on ALL CYLINDERS or COLD, SILENT, GLIDING?

1. God Reminds Jacob to Return

Ch 34 LOW POINT in History of Redemption, LOWEST in Jacob's Life

DECADE before BROKEN & Blessed by God – Great FALL BACKWARDS!

Family STRIFE on STEROIDS: Daughter Raped / Sons Slaughter Neighbors!

Not Surprisingly NAME of God NEVER OCCURS ANYWHERE in Chapter 34

Left to ourselves, our hearts are cold as ice towards God. We rapidly slide into compromise and embrace the attractions of false goals and idols. The second law of thermodynamics, which declares that matter always proceeds from order into disorder, applies to our own souls as much as to the rest of our world. Iain Duguid

Delighted Come to Gen 35 on 1st SUNDAY of NEW YEAR, Eternal Good News

v. 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.”

30 yrs Earlier JACOB made VOW to RETURN to BETHEL

Jacob MIGHT NOT have taken Vows SERIOUSLY but GOD DID...

Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”
Genesis 28.20-22

How FAR DIFFERENT God is than MAN – HE keeps HIS Part of Lousy Deal!

Jacob > ABUNDANT LIFE, Could have BUILT Factories of Bread & Clothing!

DESPITE making MANY People ANGRY > God's PEACE surrounded him

After BLESSING this SCOUNDREL for over Century – Time to Kick to Curb?

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
Psalm 103.8-12

Jacob SHOULD have BEE-LINED to BETHEL a Decade Earlier

When he RETURNED to Promised Land w/ Family & Fortune – to LIVE there
Failing to GO to Bethel – Going OWN WAY – NOT Turn out Good for JACOB
Daughter RAPED, Sons committed GENOCIDE, ALL his Neighbors HOSTILE
Jacob in FEAR & PANIC – Nations he should have Blessed want to Blast him!

Ch 34 Ends Question?? Just Hanging There – Rebuke to Jacob for Not Caring
SONS: They said, *“Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?”* Genesis 34.31

Story Written by MOSES & Read by ISRAEL - SPIRITUAL ADULTERY??

This INDIFFERENCE for his Daughter, Reflects Jacob’s IGNORING of his God

Gen 35 – ALL about CALL of God, His INITIATIVE, Grace Irresistible

God mentioned 12 X’s in ch 35 – 11 more Times in Names Israel, Bethel

FIRST Step in Spiritual RENEWAL must come FROM GOD

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”
Romans 3.10-12

Many GO THRU Hard Times and LEARN NOTHING from Them / Jacob

NO GOD – No Repentance – Just REPEAT Same Mistakes thru WHOLE LIFE!

If we’re going to get LESSON - God MUST Reveal HIMSELF to US

BETHEL – 30 yrs before – Was HIGH POINT of Jacob’s SPIRITUAL LIFE

Met God and made VOW to Him – God was FAITHFUL thru those Years

Like Mt. Moriah for Abe – Place where JEHOVAH JIREH Promised to Provide

NOW God is calling JACOB to RETURN to HIM

v. 1 ONLY Time God tells ANY of PATRIARCHS to BUILD ALTAR to HIM

2. Repentance before God

How do you KNOW when God is BREAKING into your life??

Grew up in Non-Christian Family – Lived in Apt building owned by Mormons
 HS kid job – CUSTODIAN, Sanitation Engineer, 16 yr old Sweeping POWERS
 Owners said I should join Mormon Church – Why Not? POINTS with BOSS!

2 Mormon M's came to my Apt for Lessons – Called ELDERS – Kids, Heretics
 Stories from OTHER Books – Not Bible – Jesus' VISIT to AMERICA!

Needed to be BAPTIZED – Be SURE! – Pray and Seek Burning in BOSOM!

Actually PRAYED, or TRIED – NEVER Felt Burning in Bosom – No Baptism

Many Evangelicals approach GOD in a Similar Way – All about FEELING!

FEELING? SONG? BURNING in your BOSOM?? ALL GOOD!! Not Enough

GOSPEL is FACT – God Creator, Judge, Savior – Jesus came to SAVE!

AFTER Century of FALLING into SIN Again & Again Jacob learned Something

v. 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.

Because GOD IS TRUE – We must TURN from Sin – TRUST His Salvation

SAD that after all those Years - Jacob's Family STILL HAD IDOLS

Family Probably WEARING NEW Earrings of New gods of SHECHEM

v. 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.

PURIFICATION begins with BURYING IDOLS

Even WE who have served Jesus for MANY YEARS have Sins that Cling to Us

If we are going to ENTER Deeper Relationship we need to Start SHOVELING

10 Commandments BEGIN with CHOICE of WHO is your GOD

If you want to FOLLOW TRUE AND LIVING GOD

1. NO gods before HIM
2. Make NO IMAGE of Him who is INVISIBLE, UNCAPTURABLE
3. Will NOT take His NAME in Vain – HOLD his NAME in Highest Place

IDOLS – Good gifts that have gone bad. / Make True and Living God DISTANT

Idolatry is anything that cools your desire for Christ. Oliver Cromwell

Today we call them ADDICTIONS – Really they are IDOLS

You know what your idols are by observing this, when they shake, you shake.

Iain Duguid

What UPSETS you? What makes you YELL at OTHERS?? Think of at NIGHT?

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Psalm 24.4-6

JACOB wrote Book on SWEARING DECEITFULLY

JACOB received BLESSINGS > GRACE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, MERCY

JACOB invited to RETURN to God / Jacob KNOWS he must REPENT

v. 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.”

GOD must INVITE us to Return but IF He INVITES we MUST REPENT

Jacob UNDERSTOOD – God was FAITHFUL and TRUE to Every Promise

REPENT because REALIZE what a MESS you have Made of your LIFE

Like PRODIGAL Son – Came to his Senses CALLS UPON Father he LEFT

One cannot worship God as on pleases. Jacob had already built an altar, but in the wrong place. Because he is not in the place where he is supposed to be, he brings a sword, not a blessing upon the nations. Bruce Waltke

v. 2 CHANGING CLOTHING symbolizes CHANGING THEIR LIVES

...as the truth is in Jesus, put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4.22-24

PUTTING OFF is followed by PUTTING ON

IF FORSAKE Sin – Need to be FILLED with SPIRIT

The Christian life is to be marked by DOs as well as DON'Ts

Seven EVIL spirits want to COME to INHABIT the EMPTY House

Jacob and FAMILY BURIED their IDOLS – Formal, FINAL, Ending!

SEALED Shut, Cannot be Reopened, No Negotiation

BURY > Heb. TRAPPED – Trap the thing that has TRAPPED YOU!

CATCH what has CAUGHT You

HOW do you Put them Away?? – Will Power, Self Effort, is NOT ENOUGH

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind... Romans 12.1,2

Paul: ROMANS basis for PRESENTING Self to Serve God: MERCIES of God

Letter of Romans: Treatise on MERCY of God. Grace, Mercy, Salvation

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes Romans 1.16

GOSPEL is LIFE CHANGING, MIND RENEWING, DYNAMITE

Reflect on the GOSPEL - PONDER what God has DONE for you in CHRIST

Salvation in Christ does not rest on a law that we inevitably break; it rests on a promise that God *cannot* break. Philip Ryken

NEED our MINDS to be BLOWN > Forsake STUPIDITY of SIN and SELF

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ
2 Corinthians 10.3-5

LIKE Jacob – All our PLANS & Good IDEAS hurt OURSELVES & OTHERS

NEED to RETURN to God – REPENT before God – RECEIVE Grace from God

3. Right with God and man

STORY LINE of Bible – incl GENESIS – God making PEOPLE for Himself

PEOPLE from ALL NATIONS – Know His Goodness & give Him GLORY

End of ch 34 – PEOPLE of GOD about to be PULVERIZED...

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household.” Genesis 34.30

JACOB and his Family – SITTING Ducks in GREAT DANGER!

COULD have REPLIED to this Call of God like many People DO – LATER...!

FIRST Protect Myself, Provide for Myself, Put my House & Plans in Order

THEN after made MY PLANS – Established MY AGENDA--- Follow GOD

Take Matters in Own Hands REVENGE, ENDLESS CYCLE of RETRIBUTION

Middle East LOCKED in TODAY – Neither Islam or Judaism can FORGIVE

ONLY Jesus can Bring Forgiveness and Restoration

Jacob came to LEARN that PUTTING God FIRST is of FIRST IMPORTANCE

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6.33

BIGGEST PROBLEM NOT with Neighbors, but with God of the NATIONS

PEACE with GOD first step to TRUE SHALOM....

v. 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.

JACOB in Fear of Nations around him – God reminds him that he is Lord of All

Mark 5 Man FILLED w/ LEGION of DEMONS – Healed by Jesus

Wants to JUMP in Jesus Boat & Get OUT of Town – Town loved Pigs More him

Jesus > STAY Tell these People, Your Family, How MUCH God done for You

SIMILAR Way: IMAGINE Jacob LIKE to Leave People Sons Slaughtered

GOD has Jacob STAY – LIVE before ENEMIES as Man of Peace

Israel must find a way to stay in the land with the Canaanites and yet practice faithfulness... To retain purity from the sensuality at Corinth, Paul took a Nazarite vow. To retain purity on an aircraft carrier, my brother prayed beside his bunk every night. The new community is formed by renunciation, renaming, reclothing, and, finally, receiving a promise. Bruce Waltke

a. Righteous Person – ALMOST Random inclusion of INFO – How does Fit?

v. 8 And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth.

DEBORAH Woman of NOBLE FAITH, MISSED and Loved

HEBREW Literature MIDDLE of Story is the HEART, Most FOCUS here

v. 8 Death of Deborah? Close to 200 yrs Old – DEAR Saint, People WEEP??

J's Mom REBEKAH's Death/Burial NOT Recorded > Was NOT HONORED
 REBEKAH – Woman with PLAN, always took MATTERS in OWN Hands
 She PUSHED Everyone Around to Her AGENDA – Even God – She Thought
 Disappears from GOD'S Story – No NOBLE Example for God's SAINTS

God knows DEBORAH's Name in LIFE and DEATH

NO Earthly STATUS – Lowly SERVANT – But she had HEAVENLY Salvation

GOD Changed JACOB – Moved beyond Cycle of Cheating, Mother Fostered

NO EXCUSE from FAMILY Sins – BENT us BADLY – God can REBEND!

b. Renewed Perspective

vs. 6,7 And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, 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.

Ch 28 BETHEL “House of God” enamored PLACE of God's Presence / Ladder

Ch 35 EL-BETHEL “God of the House of God” – Perspective ELEVATED!

NOW sees that what made BETHEL Great was GOD of BETHEL

PAST Week – Many of you CHOKING & FREEZING here in BEIJING

Dayna and I were on HAINAN Island – Suffering in HAWAII of CHINA

Won't give PAIN of Beautiful Descriptions of Warmth, Ocean, Scenery

People ACROSS Hall – Wealthy, Connected, FAMILY on HOLIDAY

FIGHTING, QUARRELING, MISERABLE – Mama Dayna tried to RESCUE

HAINAN is NOT HEAVEN when you are GRIPPED by Power of HELL

Be CHOKING and FREEZING in BJ and FILLED with JOY of HEAVEN!

AMAZING GRACE – BETHEL – House of God – is Open

For DECEITFUL, SINFUL, COMPROMISING Sinners like ME & Jacob & You

ZGC – VERY Wonderful, Unusual Place – Focus on GOD of ZGC!

No FUTURE Place will be JUST like this – HE Remains the SAME

He'll OPEN New, Different, even BETTER Places for you to Serve & Worship

County Western Song “Heaven just won't be Heaven without YOU!”

NO PLACE will be ANY GOOD with GOD ALMIGHTY in the MIDST

2nd Calling from God	Abraham – Genesis 17	Jacob – Genesis 35
Same Opening	v. 1 the LORD appeared to Abram	v. 9 God appeared to Jacob
Same Frame	v. 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him...v. 22 When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.	v. 9 God appeared to Jacob again...v. 13 Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.
Divine Title	v. 1 God Almighty	v. 11 “I am God Almighty...”
Names Changed	v. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham	v. 10 no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.”
Similar Promises	vs. 6,8 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you... And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”	vs. 11,12 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. 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.”

Two centuries have come and gone since Genesis 12 and, remarkably, the family of Abraham is growing, thriving, and still in the land...A dozen times the covenant has dangled by a single thread, but God is faithful and sovereign and his grace is sufficient.

John Walton

Even after Jacob's Many Great Failures – God REAFFIRMS his New NAME
OTHER People called him JACOB – But God called him ISRAEL

Jacob's FRUITFULNESS is NOT Limited by AGE – his God is ALMIGHTY
COVENANT is as Solid as ETERNAL Promise Keeping GOD

Kings will come from JACOB – and these KINGS will BOW Down before God

It is not too strong to translate the phrase a “church of nations”; a covenant community of God's people bound together in a spiritual unity...spiritual heirs as they are incorporated into the new community of the children of Israel, the church.
Iain Duguid

v. 13 Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.

Last PERSONAL VISIT with God in Genesis –

Like GOD had FACE to FACE with Abraham – this ISRAEL of God saw HIM

LAST Such appearance in Genesis / PATRIARCHAL Age is OVER

Joseph will KNOW God's Blessing > But never SEE his FACE

Yet EXPERIENCE with God NO LESS Real if HE Remains UNSEEN

Jesus: “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
John 20.29

...for we walk by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5.7

As we ENTER this NEW YEAR of 2015 - NOT NEED NEW Truth from God

Need DEEPER Understanding of His Truth Contained in 66 Books of Bible

We need CONFIRMATION and PROCLAMATION of what is Forever TRUE

Do NOT NEED a BURNING in our BOSOM – Know God's Word is TRUE

God brought JACOB back to Bethel – 12 Sons, WEALTH, Abundant Blessings

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5.17

We TEND to FORGET People that Leave Church, CUT them OFF

FAILURE in Bible – Judges – Exiles – Judgments – Denials – Peter/Thomas

What does JESUS do? Wipe them OUT? NO!! Calls them to REPENT, Restore

No matter how FAR you've STRAYED, GOD NOT Crossed you OFF HIS List

On 1st Sunday of NEW YEAR – BEHOLD our God of NEW BEGINNINGS!

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1.8,9

How many PEOPLE have you CROSSED OFF your LIST?

Hurt me TOO MUCH? Sin TOO GREAT? REPEATED Same Stupid Thing!!

What if GOD Treated you like this?

Look to YOURSELF and DESPAIR – No reason to DESPAIR look to CHRIST

In one of George MacDonald's books, there is a woman who has met a sudden sorrow. "I wish I'd never been made!" she exclaimed petulantly and bitterly; to which her friend quietly replies, "My dear you're not made yet. You're only being made – and this is the Maker's process."
J.S. Stewart

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.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.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.