

Genesis: God and Man

Dwell There

Genesis 35

God & Man...

- Jacob flees to Uncle Laban
- Falls in love with Rachel, works seven years for her
- Tricked, marries Leah
- Works seven more years, marries Rachel
- Barrenness...Marries Bilhah and Zilpah
- 11 sons, one daughter
- Last week, Dinah violated
- Only one son, through his beloved wife, Rachel.
- His name? Joseph

Where do you dwell? Spend your time?

Who do you depend on? Call on? Trust in?

How would you describe yourself?

Are you a new person or the old one, unchanged?

V1-5

Then God said...after all that happened in the last chapter

Arise, go up to Bethel

See arise a lot

Get up from your place

God tells him to make an altar to...God

Elohyim (plural) to El (God)

Make an altar Jacob...but make sure it's to the true and living God

Deu 6:4-9 NKJV - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD [is] one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. "You shall bind them as

a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

I fear a lot of us, even Christians, even churches, have set up altars to a god, or maybe even multiple gods...but not THE GOD. The God that the Bible reveals.

The God who appeared you when you fled from Esau...

God is reminding him of his brother. Reminding him of the time at the rock. The first time they spoke.

Rev 2:4-5 NKJV - "Nevertheless I have [this] against you, that you have left your first love. "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

Jacob was doing well for a time, when he left Laban. But it seems somewhere along the way, he began to turn back from being so Godly. It potentially cost him a restored relationship with his brother, it led his family to this place where his daughter was raped and his sons murdered an entire city in retribution.

He tells his house to get rid of their idols and their idolatrous ways

Josiah, the young boy king, they find the scripture and they begin to tear down the high places. Whenever we encounter the word of God - in the scripture directly, from someone in our lives, on tv...wherever...it will tell us to get rid of the other things we trust in, we worship, we bow down to, we give our lives to...in favor of it.

And we either listen...or we don't. There can be no middle ground. No serving God and mammon.

Rachel had stolen her dad's idol, probably out of spite. But it seems that either then and we weren't told and from then a lot more had crept in and taken hold of this family.

Jacob tells them exactly what God said and exactly what they're going to do

Unlike when he hid it from his brother

Foreign gods, earrings

What business Christian, do you have dealing with that foreign god?

Pantheism, yoga, embracing the things the world lifts up and parades?

A method of adorning yourself in worship to these gods? A way of modern dress, style, way women carry themselves that is not fitting for a Christian?

Interesting that he takes them and buries them by a terebinth tree...we know Abraham had a special spot with God at terebinth tree.

But he hides them. He doesn't destroy them. I think he should have destroyed them. Hiding them won't always do it. But at least his family can't get to them and sneak them with them.

Was he saving them for a rainy day? If we come back here, I'll know where they are? I don't know.

But things we hide tend to creep back. It's better to completely destroy.

Change your clothes

Not a big deal for us today, sometimes we change multiple times in a day
But clothes were much more expensive, they had less changes

A change was more significant. There needed to be an outward sign of their repentance.

They journeyed...fear of God upon everyone because of them

God protected them. Jacob was afraid of the other cities after what happened in Shechem

Israelites had favor, Jericho was afraid of them...at least Rahab was

People won't always fear God. They won't always leave you alone because of God. Sometimes they will attack you because of your fear of Him. But God will always get you to where you need to be.

Talk about "travelling mercies"

V6-8

Luz - the old name (almond tree)

Bethel - the new name (house of God)

El Bethel - God of the house of God

Interesting name, but Jacob wanted it clear that God personally showed up in this place to him, all those years ago

A personal God...Genesis, God and Man

Jacob's meeting with God is so intertwined with his relationship with his twin brother. Albeit running away from his brother who at the time wanted to kill him...but God met him in that hard time, while sleeping on a rock...

...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother...

Deborah buried at the “oak of weeping”

DGc - We know nothing of this woman before this account. Seemingly, she came with Rebekah as a companion when she came from Haran to marry Isaac. Obviously, she was a beloved member of the family, because they named the place where she was buried Allon Bachuth, which means “Oak of Weeping.”

V9-15

God appeared to Jacob again

Now that Jacob is where God wants him to be, he's being obedient, he's put away the idols and led his family to repent (at least outwardly)

He is hearing from God regularly

Are you and I hearing from God regularly?

Do we have the right time set up? Devotional, church, worship, fellowship, prayer, other?

Do we have our hearts set up? Repentant, contrite, more ready to hear than to speak?

Are we doing what we know we should be doing? Or have we put off doing the good?

Jas 4:17 NKJV - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin.

Israel didn't hear from God for 400 years...Malachi to when the Messiah was born, technically when John the baptist's birth was announced to Zechariah

Good news that Jesus was born even after all of that silence

If you haven't heard from God...perhaps you need to turn back to your first love

First reading Corinthians in my room

If you haven't heard from God, but you haven't left your first love...keep being obedient. Keep waiting on Him. Keep holding on to the last thing you did hear. He will speak again.

God repeats what he told Jacob in chapter 32...when they wrestled all night

Your name is Israel (governed by God)

Sometimes we need a reminder of who we are in Christ...especially if we've backslidden, or fallen into some sin

Company of nations, kings shall come from your body

Would part of this not be partly fulfilled almost immediately in Joseph, who would be second in command of Egypt?

God loves to give tastes of his promises to us. Sometimes there is a long-time, long-off fulfilment, but God loves to give us a taste of what is to come...if we would have ears to hear and eyes to see it...

God went up from the place he talked with him

Ascended...was this a christophany?

Jesus ascended in front of the disciples...

Speak, talk, command, promise, to one another...

When God speaks to us, isn't it all of these wonderful things at once?!

Jacob sets up the altar, offers there (it's not an altar if there's no offering!)

i. The idea of a drink offering is found often in the Bible. Exodus 29:40-41, Leviticus 23:13, and Numbers 15:5-7 show the drink offering was made with wine poured out in sacrifice before the Lord at His altar. Paul considered the pouring out of his life before God to be like the pouring out of a drink offering at God's altar (Philippians 2:17 and 2 Timothy 4:6).

ii. Jacob's heart of worship showed gratitude towards God. When we look back on life, we should never have the attitude that says, "I was robbed." Instead our heart should say, "God has blessed." This will probably determine if we will be perfectly miserable or perfectly delightful as we get older.

Rom 12:1-2 NKJV - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

16-22**Bethel to Ephrath (Bethlehem)**

Maybe 20 miles? A few days journey

Going to find their family.

Rachel has hard labor

(pregnant on the way, reminds me of Mary and Joseph and the LORD's birth)

Labor is hard to begin with, no? Severe labor. Distress.

Concerns for Ashlee when pregnant with Timothy

She was concerned for the baby, even though she was dying, midwife tells her it's a boy

Hard labor can bring death to the baby, the mom, or both. Caesarean today.

The baby boy is born safely

Names son of her sorrow...sorrow about her maid Deborah...sorrow of dying

Birth and death together...how hard a time for Jacob (Israel) and his family

The loss of the love of his life

But he won't let him be named after her sorrow...to have that over him his entire life

It's probably hard enough going through life without a mom, and then knowing that she died in childbirth for you...and then to have a name that you can't escape of sorrow

The importance of a name

Benjamin - son of the right hand (symbol of strength, authority...sit at my right hand)

Disciples wanting to sit at Jesus' right and left

V22 - strange

Should Jacob have stayed in Bethel?

During this hard time, after it...Reuben the firstborn sleeps with his dad's concubine, technically step-mom in a way, his brother Dan and Naphtali's mom

Jacob doesn't say anything to him or at least we're not told...just that Jacob knows about it.

A real quick verse showing even more messed up things happening in this family

Reuben wasn't one of the guys who went out to avenge Dinah. Perhaps his own desires kept him from going forth in righteousness

23-29

Recap of Jacob's 12 sons

Ordered not by birth but by wife

Back to their homeland, back to Isaac, his dad...who is still alive! He thought he was dying several decades (at least) ago when he blessed Jacob before he had to flee

180! Being old and full of days. NO DOUBT.

What a good thing to die old and full of days. Not to die young. To see your life and live it well, to see the life of your children and grandchildren.

Talking about that the other day

How good that family was together for yet another death.

Perhaps Isaac was holding on to see his sons together again.

We see Esau again at the funeral. But nothing more is said. At least there was peace between the brothers and in the family...but again, how much more there could have been. And perhaps we just don't know about it.

But a family should be a family.

Will we be gathered to our people in heaven?

Will our lives be marked by obedience and dwelling in the right place?

One with a path of altars set up over the years, marking where we've been and where the Lord has brought us?

Or will we die before our time, not full of years and holy exploits?

2Co 6:1-2 NKJV - We then, [as] workers together [with Him] also plead with [you] not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.

Believer or not...turn from your idols to the true and living God

Let him change your sinful garments for robes of white

That you may lead a full life from this day forward and into eternity

*Next up, a genealogy, and then we move on to the next person that the scripture follows...and that we'll see in Genesis: God and Man...**Joseph**. The rest of Genesis focus' on this man's life and God's promises to him and all God brings him through to save his family, a nation and many others.*