

Genesis 35

1 God sends him back to the place of his first encounter with the living God. How different his attitude and understanding are now. How much has your attitude about God and understanding of Him changed since you first believed?

2 He made a vow to God. 28:20,21 The idols with them were a violation of that vow. Since he considered this the House of God, he wanted everyone outwardly clean as a picture of inward cleanliness. Is this why people put on their Sunday best to go to the house of God? We have the same misunderstanding that Jacob did. God is always with us as he says in the next verse, and so we should live lives of holiness wherever we are. His glory is in all the earth.

3 Jacob knows God kept his Word and now he must keep his vow.

4 The rings were like good luck charms, lucky rabbits foot, but was placing trust in something other than the one true God. Do you have any gods that need to be buried? The idols were not as big as one would imagine. Many that have been found were only three inches or less in height. It wouldn't take that big a hole.

5 Those in alliance with the town Jacob's sons destroyed, miraculously, feared seeking revenge. They had done wrong but God still protected them. Judah is the lineage of the Seed.

6,7 God of the House of God. Our first revelation is a very significant place and stays with us all our life. Some call it the First Love, though we should grow in our love and devotion from that point forward. It is a special place we like to return to for God is love.

8-10 What manifestation of God did he perceive? I wonder was it the same as the one he wrestled with? The same name is given again, double confirmation. Israel – he wrestles with God. The nation would be wrestling with God for the next 1500 years.

11 The revelation of El Shaddai = the self sufficient God. He doesn't need us but we need Him. How contrary to Jacob's original attitude at Bethel.

12-15 For some reason God does seem to meet us at particular places, perhaps because of the significance to us. We prepare our hearts and come with expectation. We should be that way every time we pray.

16 Rachel's nurse died and now as she gives birth to the youngest of the 12 she will also pass on. God takes from Jacob the dearest thing to him in this life. He

will do that again and again to teach him to draw his eyes to heaven and place his hope and trust there. I'm sure He has done the same with every saint.

17,18 Son of my trouble becomes son of my right hand.

19 There is a great deal of superstition surrounding this tomb. There are two different places that are called the tomb of Rachel. Even today women run a red cord around the tomb and tie it to their ankle expecting that to make them fertile.

20,21 Now that Rachael was dead he is called Israel. Was his love for her interfering with his love for God?

22 Rueben was first born and lost his place because of this incident. Joseph was chosen along with Judah and Levi to be the most prevalent tribes. Just as with his father, the cultural law (firstborn inherits 2/3s) did not prevail.

23-29 The boys come together again to bury their father.