

Genesis: God and the Originals

CLOSING JACOB AND ESAU'S STORY

The Return to Bethel (35:1-8)

1. Why do you think God wants Jacob to return to Bethel?
 - a. To get away from the stink of the Shechemites.
 - b. To worship
 - c. To remember the covenant given at Bethel
 - d. To tithe
 - e. To make confession and receive forgiveness
 - f. To begin his final journey back to his father Isaac
 - g. Other: _____

35:1 is the only place in Genesis where God asks for _____.

2. How does Jacob and his household prepare for their return to Bethel? How is this like the beginning of our traditional worship service?
3. Why is it important in v. 5 that “the terror of God” falls on the towns around Bethel?

BONUS: What's the purpose behind recounting Deborah's death and burial in v. 8?



A Concluding Summary (35:9-15)

4. These verses are like a “concluding summary” of Jacob's return from Paddam Aram. How does this summary reaffirm the covenantal promises made to Abraham (see p. 3 graph)?

Deaths, Usurpation and New Life (35:16-29)

5. How does Rachel die? How is this tragic and ironic?
6. What does Rachel name her son? How does Jacob change his name?

BONUS: How is Rachel's death memorialized in scripture (see Matthew 2:17-18)?

7. What does Reuben do in v. 22? Why does he do it? And how is it terrible?
8. How does v. 29 bring Jacob and Esau's story to a nice closing?
9. Is Jacob deceiving Esau in these verses, or are these "polite negotiations"?

Esau's Family Tree (36:1-43)

10. Why is Esau's family tree important to Israel?
 - a. It reminds Israel from where the Edomites come
 - b. It confirms God's promise to bless Esau as part of Abraham's lineage.
 - c. It tells us what Esau does wrong.
 - d. It gives the Israelites legitimacy in their fight against future enemies (like Amalekites and Edomites, etc.)
 - e. Other: _____
11. Where does Esau settle, and what is the biggest "issue" in his life (going all the way back to Rebekah's statement in 27:46)?

BONUS: There are discrepancies if you compare and contrast the lineage of Esau from this chapter and other chapters (e.g. 26, 28). Why is that? How do you reconcile the discrepancies with scripture that is "inerrant"?

Covenantal Promises

17:1–8, 22	28:3–4, 18–19	35:9–14
Yahweh appeared to Abram		God appeared to Jacob
and said to him, “I am El Shadday.	“May El Shadday himself bless you	and blessed him . . . “God said to him, I am El Shadday.
I will make you very, very numerous.	and enable you to be fruitful	Be fruitful
I will enable you to be very, very fruitful.	and numerous,	and numerous.
You will no longer be named Abram.		You will no longer be named Jacob.
Your name will be Abraham.		Israel will be your name.
You will become the ancestor of a horde of nations.	so you become a congregation of peoples.	A nation and a congregation of nations will come into being from you.
From you kings will go out.		Kings will come out from your insides.
I will give to you,	May he give to you Abraham’s blessing,	The country that I gave to Abraham . . . I will give to you,
and to your offspring after you,	to you and to your offspring with you,	and I will give the country to your offspring after you.”
the country	so you take possession of the country	
where you are residing as aliens.”	where you’re residing as aliens, which God gave Abraham.”	
So he finished speaking with him.		Then God withdrew from him
And God withdrew from Abraham.		at the site where he spoke with him.
	Jacob got the rock . . . ,	Jacob put up . . .
	put it up as a standing stone	a standing stone,
		a standing stone of rock,
		and poured out a libation on it
	and poured oil on the top of it.	and poured oil on it.
	He named the site Beth El.	Jacob named the site where God spoke with him Beth El.