

35:1

Then God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up in elevation (although “down” on a map) to ^aBethel where chapter 28’s “ladder” episode took place. and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, ^bwho appeared to you ^cwhen you fled from the face of Esau your brother.”

² And Jacob said to his ^dhousehold and to all who *were* with him, The women from Shechem? “Put away ^ethe foreign gods that *are* among you, ^fpurify yourselves, and change your garments. ³ Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, in addition to the one built in chapter 28 more than 30 years before. ¹ ^gwho answered me in the day of my distress trouble with Esau and Laban and the men of Shechem, etc... ^hand has been with me in the way which I have gone.” ⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign ¹gods which *were* in their hands, which his favorite wife stole from her father (see chapter 31) or those they had gotten from Shechem (chapter 34). and the ⁱearrings which *were* in their ears; and Jacob hid them under ^jthe terebinth tree which *was* by Shechem.

⁵ And they journeyed, and ^kthe terror of God was upon the cities that *were* all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. ⁶ So Jacob came to ^lLuz (that is, Bethel), The first of several geographical clarifications from the writer’s perspective [in this chapter, verses 19 and 27 also]. which *is* in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who *were* with him. ⁷ And he ^mbuilt an altar there perhaps 30 years before he had already built an altar.

^a Gen. 28:19; 31:13

^b Gen. 28:13

^c Gen. 27:43

^d Gen. 18:19; Josh. 24:15

^e Gen. 31:19, 30, 34; Josh. 24:2, 14, 23

^f Ex. 19:10, 14; Lev. 13:6

¹This assumes Joseph was born around Jacob’s 14th year with Laban (Genesis 30:25-26) and seeing Joseph’s 18th year in Genesis 37. This leaves approximately 10-11 years between Joseph’s birth and the episode of his being sold into slavery (Genesis 37).

^g Gen. 32:7, 24; Ps. 107:6

^h Gen. 28:15, 20; 31:3, 42

ⁱ idols

^j Hos. 2:13

^k Josh. 24:26; Judg. 9:6

^l Ex. 15:16; 23:27; [Deut. 2:25; 11:25]; Josh. 2:9; 1 Sam. 14:15

¹ Gen. 28:19, 22; 48:3

^m Gen. 33:20; 35:3; Eccl. 5:4