

## Genesis 35:1-29

Chapter 35 is about the detailed life of Jacob, but he'll move out of the picture of being the center focal point in the book of Genesis here. Here we'll learn about the beginnings of Israel. We need to understand the book of Genesis to be able to understand the rest of the bible, and have a good foundation of knowledge.

### Genesis 35:1-29

- 1 ¶ **And God said to Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar to God, that appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.** Here Jacob has got into all kinds of trouble, he's not where he's supposed to be, and his two sons have wiped out a village and stirred up all kinds of trouble. God tells Jacob "get up and go where I told you to go in the first place."
- 2 **Then Jacob said to his household, and to all that *were* with him, Put away the strange gods that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your garments:** Jacob's wife Rachel stole the idols of her dad, and she still has them at this stage. Why did they have these idols when they believed in God? Because they didn't have the bible in those days. Things weren't written down. The only way they heard about God was through men like Abraham. God wants Jacob to get rid of the false idols, take a bath, and dress up nice. When approaching God throughout the Old Testament, people were told to clean up and dress nice. You don't have to dress to the nines, just you should dress as nice as you can and be clean.
- 3 **And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.** Jacob is going back to Bethel and will make another altar for the God who has protected him all these years.
- 4 **And they gave to Jacob all the strange gods which *were* in their hand, and *all their* earrings which *were* in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which *was* by Shechem.** Those earrings talked about here were earrings that denoted their affiliation or worship of the strange gods and false idols. Jacob told his women to get rid of them. Today we worship money, cars, houses, etc. Get rid of it if you put it above God. The peace sign is a broken cross used in the middle ages for demonic worship.
- 5 **And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that *were* round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.**
- 6 ¶ **So Jacob came to Luz, which *is* in the land of Canaan, that *is*, Bethel, he and all the people that *were* with him.**
- 7 **And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared to him, when he fled from the face of his brother.**
- 8 **But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth.** Deborah was Rebekah's nurse and she traveled with them. 150 years had gone by since Deborah came with them, so she was really old. She took care of Jacob when he was little.
- 9 **And God appeared to Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.** God continues to appear to Jacob from time-to-time to give him a boost of courage.
- 10 **And God said to him, Your name *is* Jacob: your name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be your name: and he called his name Israel.** Here Jacob's name is changed to Israel.
- 11 **And God said to him, I *am* God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of you, and kings shall come out of your loins;** God reiterates the promise He has made to him over and over and over.
- 12 **And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to you I will give it, and to your seed after you will I give the land.** This is the very land the Arabs are claiming never belonged to the Jews in the first place. The Arabs are trying to destroy any evidence of this record to this day. Did God include any other men in His communications about this land besides David, Abraham, and Jacob? We really don't know. What we have

written down here is the communication with man that God wants us to know about. We have His written to word today to study and learn from.

- 13 **And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.**
- 14 **And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, *even* a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.** This is very significant. The pillar is made of stone and represents Jesus Christ. The wine represents the spilled blood of Jesus Christ. Anytime we see oil poured out it represents the Holy Spirit. It shows the whole picture of redemption.
- 15 **And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.**
- 16 ¶ **And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labor.** Ephrath is the old name for Bethlehem. Rachel is having another child.
- 17 **And it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, Fear not; you shalt have this son also.** Even though the birth was going bad, the midwife helped her give birth to the child.
- 18 **And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.** Benjamin means son of the white man. Rachel died in childbirth.
- 19 **And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Bethlehem.**
- 20 **And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that *is* the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.** Even in the time Moses wrote this, they still knew where her grave was. Rachel was Jacob's one great love. Jacob just has crisis after crisis.
- 21 ¶ **And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.**
- 22 **And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard *it*. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:** Jacob's son Reuben goes and sleeps with the mother of two of his half brothers, a concubine. But Jacob didn't make a big issue of this atrocity.
- 23 **The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:**
- 24 **The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin:**
- 25 **And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali:**
- 26 **And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these *are* the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.**
- 27 **And Jacob came to Isaac his father to Mamre, to the city of Arbah, which *is* Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.** Hebron is controlled by the Arabs. Abraham and Isaac's graves are still there to this day.
- 28 **And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.** Isaac lived to be 180 years old.
- 29 **And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered to his people, *being* old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.**

Jacob gave up a lot by not obeying God. Here's a list: Deborah died, Rachel died, his only daughter lived in disgrace away from the family, his two sons became murderers, Isaac died, and Reuben disgraced the whole family.