

Genesis 12-35

The Story of Salvation



A Changed Man

Genesis 35:1-29

• BEER SHEBA

Life Goes On

- ★ I can't remember my old routines & habits
- ★ Life goes on through every trial & change
 - ◆ Each one has its part to play in our formation
- ★ This passage reflects both change & constancy
 - ◆ Ends with Isaac's death & Burial (Gen 35:28-29)
 - ◆ Similar to the end of Abraham's life (Gen 25:7-9)

1. A Changed Man

- ★ Jacob has come a long way
 - ◆ Settle & establish patterns of worship
- ★ He gives clear & specific instructions:
 - ◆ Put away the foreign Gods
 - ◇ Not possible to worship the true God with false gods
 - ◆ Purify yourselves
 - ◇ He can only be approached in purity

1. A Changed Man ...

- ◆ Change your garments
 - ◆ Reflect the specialness of coming to worship
 - ◆ Precursor to what Paul alludes to (Eph 4:22-24)
- ★ His survival & prosperity not because of himself
 - ◆ God had been with him
 - ◆ Worships the God (El) of “House of God” (Beth-el)

2. A Renewed Covenant

- ★ Confirms change of name to “Israel”
 - ◆ Two possible orders: “Fights God” or “God fights”
 - ◆ A person who fights God ...
... realizes God fights for him
- ★ God reveals himself to Jacob
 - ◆ I am God Almighty = El Shaddai (v 11)
 - ◆ He reaffirms his covenant

3. A Foundation of a Nation

- ★ The chapter records 2 deaths
 - ◆ Isaac dies at a ripe old age
 - ◆ Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin
 - ◆ Buried on the way to Ephrath (Bethlehem)
 - ◆ King David was an Ephrathite (1 sam 17:12)
 - ◆ Messiah was predicted to come from here (Mic 5:2)
 - ◆ Recurs in the birth narrative of Jesus (Matt 2:17-18)

3. A Foundation of a Nation ...

★ Brings to an end the line of Sons:

◆ Leah – Reuben, Simeon, Levi, *Judah*, Issachar,
Zebulun [6]

◆ Rachel – Joseph [Ephraim & Manasseh], Benjamin [2]

◆ Bilhah – Dan, Naphtali [2]

◆ Zilpah – Gad, Asher [2]

– Living It –

- ✦ Jacob's growth in his walk with God
 - ◆ Passionate for the one true God
 - ◆ Brings religious reform to his whole family
 - ◆ God answers when Jacob is distressed – He Blesses
 - ◆ God has been with him – He is present

– Living It –

✦ God is Faithful

- ◆ Because of his grace
- ◆ He does not treat them as their sins deserve
- ◆ So great is his steadfast love (Ps 103:10-12)