

“Life and Death”
Genesis 35

v. 1 Q. What was the command given to Jacob?

A.

1. Go to _____
2. _____ there
3. Build an _____ (place of worship)

Note: This is the first time God _____ anyone to build an altar to Him. All the others were a _____ and voluntary response to a divine interaction.

Note: Bethel was mentioned three times before this (House of God).

Genesis 12:8 – _____ pitches his tent between Bethel (Luz) and Ai.

Genesis 18:19 – Jacob has his first encounter with God and sets up a _____ (Jacob’s ladder dream).

Genesis 31:13 – Jacob has his second encounter with God (Paddan Aram) where God identifies himself as the God of Bethel in a _____ and calls him to go home.

Note: Notice that the relational connection with God is tied to a _____: fleeing from his brother Esau.

v. 2 Q. What did Jacob ask his household to do?

A.

1. Get rid of your _____ gods.

Note: This is the first time that a _____ is being made between the one true God and false/foreign gods.

Note: These gods could be:

- a. Those that came with them from _____
_____ (Rachel and the saddle bag; Laban's household gods)
 - b. Those that were acquired during the recent _____ of Shechem.
 - c. _____
2. _____ yourselves

Note: This is the first time this action is prescribed but we have no idea outside of external sources or later citations (Ex. 29:36 – anointed with oil; Lev. 8:15 – anointed with blood) to understand what was involved. It may have simply been a _____
_____ with water.

3. _____ your clothes.

Note: Since the prior two were connected to _____, there is speculation that this, too, was connected with it.

Rashi comments, "lest you have in your possession a _____ that has been employed in idolatrous worship."
(Genesis Rabbah 81:3).

v. 3. Q. What else does Jacob say to his family?

A.

1. We're moving to _____.
2. Where I'm going to establish a place of _____.
3. Jacob testifies to his family that this "God" is the one who _____ when you cry out to him and never _____ you (even though at times it might feel that way).

v. 4 Q. What did Jacob do with the idols and those things associated with it (cp. Exodus 32:2-4).

A. He _____ them under a tree.

Note: The modern Erz Chayyim Torah (The Tree of Life Commentary on the Torah), explains that these artifacts were no _____ pieces of jewelry, but more likely _____ (something endowed with magical powers from a witch or warlock) that were adorned with pagan _____.

"Jacob intuitively senses that the continued presence of these gods is _____ with the new life he has found in Yahweh. The whole incident must be read as an illustration of Jacob's religious _____." (Hamilton; Prager 412)

v. 5 Q. What happens and what is its significance? (Cp. 32:1)

A. _____ as is assumed in 32:1 (Angelic) and negotiated in 28:20-22 at this very same place years before (Ladder dream).

vv. 6-7 Q. Jacob arrives and what does he do?

A. Jacob builds an altar and calls it _____ I (Literally, "God, House of God").

It could also mean, "God is in the house of God" or "God's Presence has _____ itself in the house of God. The latter has strength given that Jacob uses that particular language.

v. 8 Q. What life event happens? Significance?

A. Rebekah's _____ died (part of her entourage) . It is the last connection with Paddan Aram.

Rashi tells us that _____ says Deborah was sent by Rebekah to go to her fathers to bring Jacob back home, i.e., "I'll send word for you to come back from there," (Gen. 27:45). There is no _____ support for this.

vv. 9 – 10 Q. What does God do?

A.
v. 9 God _____ to Jacob again (dream or Christophany? Cp. v. 13, "went up from him").

God _____ Jacob.

v. 10 God _____ Jacob (again). Cp. 32:28

Note: Once again it is a reminder for Jacob to live in his new _____ and not in the past. In the past you were a "_____, " but now you are one who struggled with God and won (_____).

vv. 11-12 God restated the _____ command and the _____ promise (a people, a global influence, and a specific land).

v. 13 God, once again, _____ Jacob.

vv. 14-15 Q. How did Jacob respond? What is meant by each?

A.

v. 14 Jacob sets up a stone _____.

This will function as a _____
remembrance/reminder.

Jacob pours out a drink _____ on it.

This functions as a visible _____.

Note: This is the first recording of someone doing this act of _____.

v. 14 Jacob pours _____ on it.

This signifies a sacred _____ or consecration (setting it apart).

Note: Jacob did this the _____ time. Cp. 28:18.

vv. 16-20 Q. What life event happened?

A.

1. The _____ of Rachel.

2. The _____ of Benjamin.

3. The _____ of Rachel.

Note: She is not buried in the family tomb in _____.

4. Jacob sets up a _____ stone over her burial place (in what is now _____).

Note: The phrase “to this day” implies that this was still erect and _____ during the time Moses was writing this account.
Cp. 22:14; 26:33; 32:32.

Note: Isaac does not permit the child to grow up _____ with the idea of mourning but declares a _____ name over him: “Son of my right hand.”

Note: Rashi says that it could also mean, “Son of the _____” since he was the only one born in this region.

Q. Read Matthew 2:16-18. How do we understand this in light of this passage?

A. The reference is to Rachel being _____ here:

1. Observing the _____ during the Babylonian captivity, i.e., Jeremiah.
2. Observing the _____ of the “innocents” connected with her own _____.

v. 21 Q. Where did Israel go from there?

A.

Note: “Migdal Eder” means “_____”
and may be a reference to the “pillar” where Rachel was buried.

v. 22 Q. What cultural/moral violation took place?

A. Jacob's _____ son slept with Rachel's handmaid, Bilhah, Jacob's _____ wife.

Q. What is actually going on here?

A.

1. This is not about _____ but power.
2. This was not about _____ empowerment but _____ to his mother, Leah.
3. The intent was to make her a _____ in his father's nose so he would go to his mother.

Note on Rashi.

Q. What does the text say about Jacob?

A.

Q. What would be the consequences of such behavior? Cp. 49:3-4.

A. Jacob _____ him at a time when he was blessing others at the end of his life.

vv. 23-26 Q. What is the reason for the review?

A.

1. To establish a written _____.
2. To establish the future _____ per their _____ connections.

vv. 27-29 Q. What is the life event that happens?

A.

1. Jacob went to _____ his father in Hebron presumably because of failing health [family burial place].
2. Isaac was _____ [very old].
3. Isaac _____.
4. Esau and Jacob _____ him
[demonstrating _____]

Note: Not reading too much into this...the Torah places Esau _____ in the mentioned sons as well as his presence to _____ his father. A dual sign of _____ given how the Bible otherwise portrays him.

Application Questions:

Q. How does this quote help us to understand Jacob?

"Gratitude must be constantly fed, unlike resentment, which lives and grows naturally."

A.

Q. What do the family requirements in coming to worship teach us in our modern times?

A.

1. Getting rid of foreign gods.
2. Purifying ourselves.
3. Changing our clothes.

4. Building and altar

Q. Why do we constantly need to be reminded of our identity in Christ?

A.