

Genesis Chapter 35

*four
funerals
and a "Wedding"*



Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau."
v1



- 1, Go up to Bethel
- 2, and 'settle' (*return*) there,
- 3, and build an altar

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him,
"Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you....." v2-3

1st -- some things have to go !

What about Rachel's ?

What did Jacob know ?

Cf. Mark 1:15



THREE SYRIAN TERRACOTTA IDOLS ,
CIRCA 2ND MILLENNIUM B.C ..

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him,
“Purify yourselves and change your clothes.” v2-3

2nd Get ready – new outfit

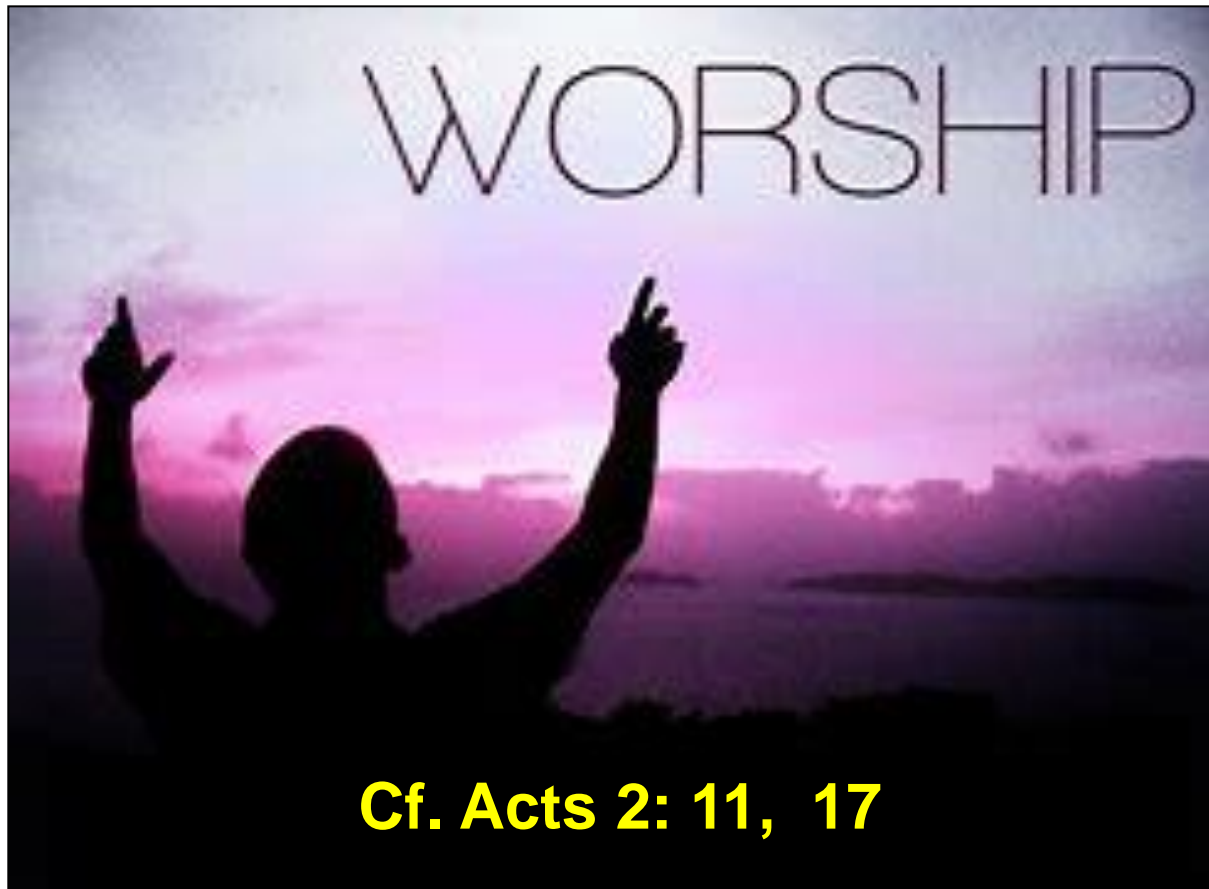


Cf. Luke 24:46-49

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone."

v2-3

3rd Worship and thanks - His way



Cf. Acts 2: 11, 17

So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. v4

Good riddance !

Why the ear rings ?



Cf. Acts 26: 20



X marks the spot

Then they set out, and the terror of God fell upon the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.

v5

God's protection in vulnerable situation



Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother. v 6-7

God fulfilled his promise - a good reminder



Now Deborah, Rebekah`s nurse, died and was buried under the oak below Bethel. So it was named Allon Bacuth. v8



Oak of Weeping



Where did Deborah fit into the story ?
(another funeral ?– what about Rebekah ?)

After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him.

v9



This is a summary –
Notice that the LORD appears mostly in the promised land

God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel. " So he named him Israel.

v10



New nature, new name -- both are God's gifts
And this becomes the family name



I am El Shaddai The basis for the rest of the promises/commands

And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you."

v11-12



Blessings of :-

- 1, family and future prosperity
- 2, land gift



Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him. Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it.

v13-14



Worship on holy ground

Jacob called the place where God had talked with him Bethel. v15

Beth-El = House of God



Where does God speak to you?

Then they moved (*south*) on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty.

v16

Moving on



And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have another son." As she breathed her last--for she was dying--she named her son Ben-Oni.

v17-18

Good news-bad news



Son of my sorrow

Son of my right hand



Both names -> descendants

Tribe – terrible sin in Judges

1st king - Saul

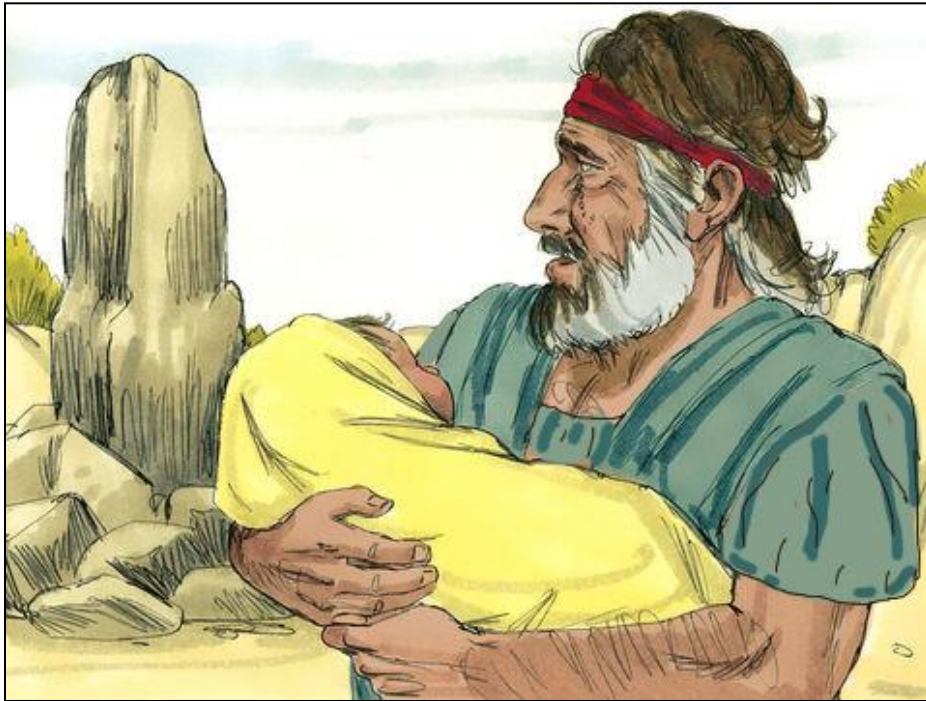
Faithful during national division

Apostle Paul's ancestor



So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's tomb. v19-20

Place marked out – with an important future



About 1890 - 1900

Great love – great sorrow

Move on



For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Hebrews 13:14

While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his father`s concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard of it. v22



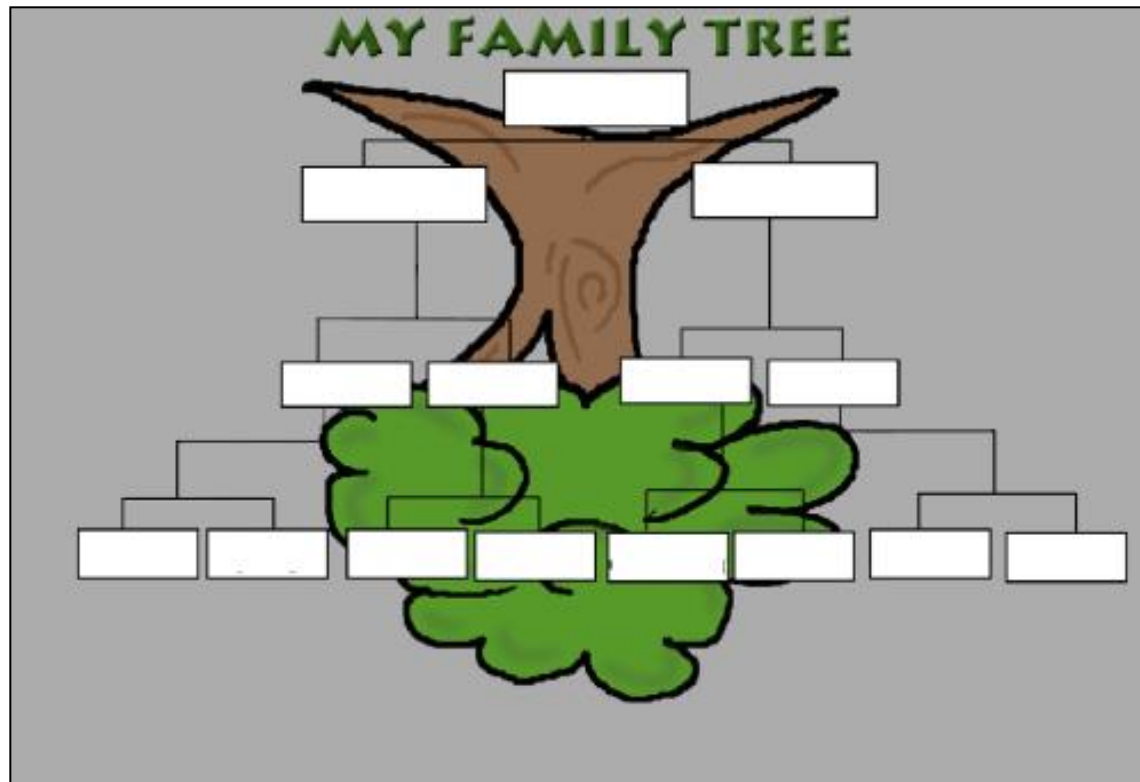
Reuben the Firstborn – Take-over bid?

His Sin dishonours himself, Bilhah and his father

Israel heard – what did he do ?

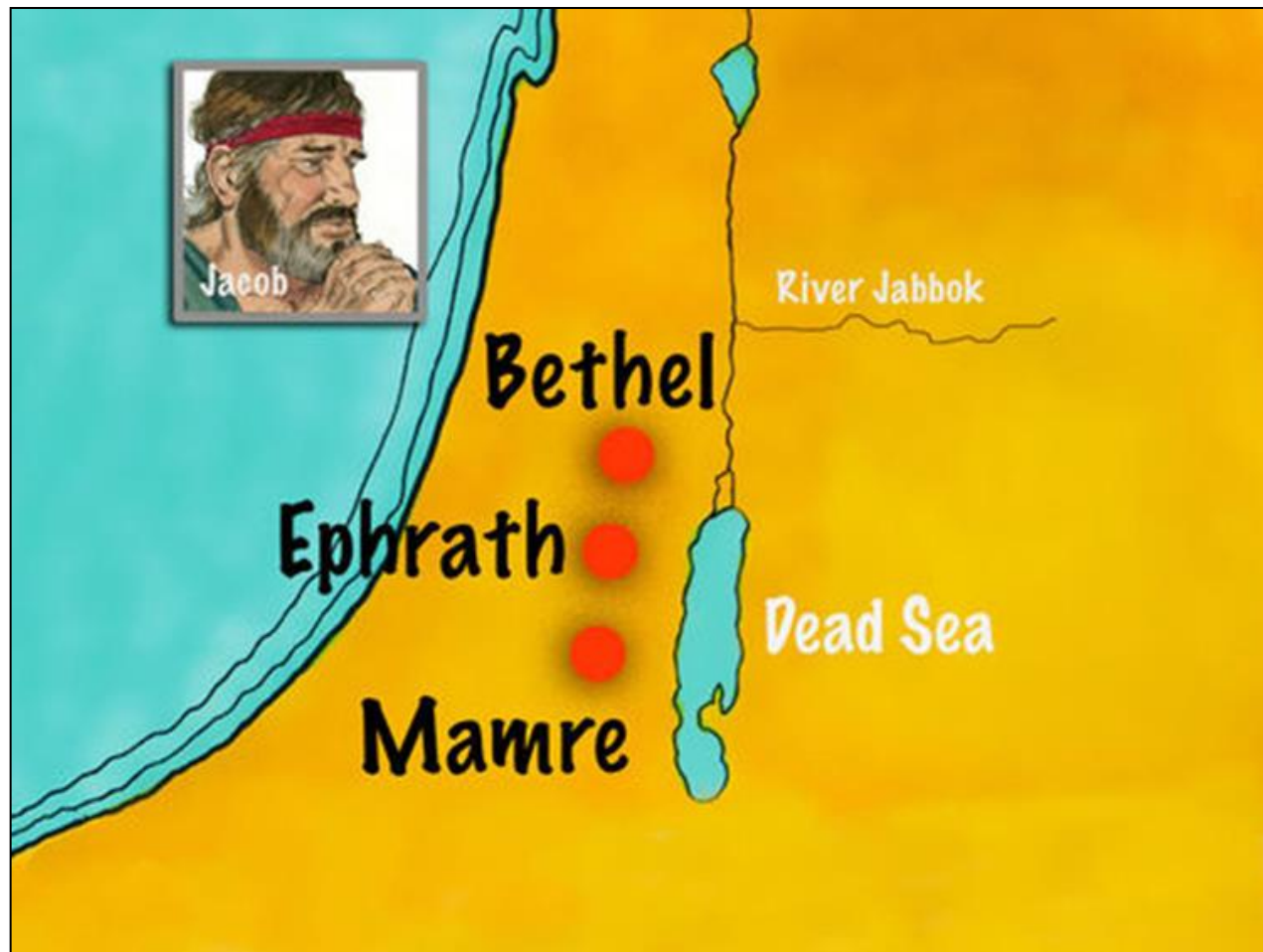
Genesis 49:3-4

Jacob had twelve sons.. The sons of Leah.. Reuben the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun. The sons of Rachel.. Joseph and Benjamin. The sons of Rachel`s maidservant Bilhah.. Dan and Naphtali. The sons of Leah`s maidservant Zilpah.. Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan Aram. v22-26



Summary – Leah is first in the list – Reuben is still included !

Jacob came home to his father Isaac in Mamre, near Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had stayed. v27



He sees his father at last – the ancestral ‘home’
Probably about 12 years before Isaac died.

Isaac lived a hundred and eighty years. v28



A long time ?

Then he breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, old and full of years.

v29



**See
Luke 20:38**

And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. v29

Reconciled – what is important ?

