

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 31, 2023

GENESIS 35:1-15

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Worship is an expression of our love, respect, and appreciation toward God. God does not need our worship, but He expects it of us.
2. Repeatedly, reference is made to God appearing 11 times in 15 verses. This passage is all about God and His interaction with Jacob.
3. **GENESIS 35.1:** *“Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.”*

### I. THE COMMAND

- A. God commands Jacob to go to Bethel.
  1. **GENESIS 35.1:** *“Arise, go up to Bethel”* Bethel: Bet – “house, temple”; El – “God.” The house of God. This is where God first appeared to Jacob. (Gen. 28.13,19; 31.13)
  2. **GENESIS 35.1:** *“dwell there.”* Why? This was the land that God was giving him.
  3. **GENESIS 35.1:** *“make an altar”* Altar: place of sacrifice. (Gen. 8.20; 22.9,10)
    - a) Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all built altars to God. (Gen. 12.7; 26.23-25; 28.18,22)
    - b) Altars were built as tools of worship and related to those who called on the name of the LORD. (Gen. 4.26; 1 Kings 18.24-26; 36,37; 2 Kings 5.11; Acts 22.16)
- B. Jacob commands his family.
  1. **GENESIS 35.2:** *“Put away the foreign gods that are among you.”* (Gen. 31.19)
  2. **GENESIS 35.2:** *“purify yourselves”* Cleaning the body. (Ex. 29.4; Heb. 10.22)
  3. **GENESIS 35.2:** *“and change your garments.”* It was a fresh start.
  4. **GENESIS 35.3,4:** *“Then let us arise and go to Bethel...”*

### II. THE JOURNEY

- A. **GENESIS 35.5:** *“And they journeyed”*
  1. The distance from Shechem to Bethel was about 31 miles.
  2. Later, a highway was built between the two locations. (Judges 21.19)
- B. **GENESIS 35.5:** *“the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them”*
  1. Terror (hittah): “To be shattered, disheartened.” (1 Sam. 2.10)
  2. They were not afraid of Jacob and his family but of God. (Ex. 15.14-16)
  3. They were afraid of them because of their fear of God. (Josh. 2.9)
- C. **GENESIS 35.5:** *“and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.”* (Gen. 34.30)

### III. THE ARRIVAL

- A. **GENESIS 35.6:** *“So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan”*
  1. Bethel was part of the land of Canaan God promised to give them. (Gen. 13.12-15)
  2. **GENESIS 35.7:** *“And there he built an altar”* This passage reflects back to Genesis 28.
  3. **GENESIS 35.8:** *“Now Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse died”* (Gen. 24.59; 13.18; 35.4)
- B. **GENESIS 35.9:** *“Then God appeared to Jacob again”* This is the second time.
  1. God blessed him. (Gen. 35.9)
  2. God changed his name. (Gen. 35.10)
  3. God promised him. (Gen. 35.11,12,13)
  4. Jacob worshipped God. (Gen. 35.14.15)