

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JUNE 7, 2023

GENESIS 35:16-22

INTRODUCTION:

1. It was a long journey from Haran to Hebron where Jacob and his family faced many challenges along the way. Yet he had only one thought on his mind. (Gen. 48.7)
2. There is very little in this life that is more heartbreaking than losing your spouse.
3. When a loved one dies, their memory is special to us, and we are still special to them.

I. LOCATION

- A. **GENESIS 35.16:** *“Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath.”* Also called Ephrathah and Ephratah. [Map]
1. Ephrath is also known as Bethlehem. (Gen. 35.19). There were two cities which bore the name and were distinguished by their regional location. (Judges 17.7; Josh. 19.15)
 2. Bethlehem was the birthplace of David. (Ruth 4.17; 1 Sam. 16.1,18; 17.12)
 3. Bethlehem was the birthplace of Jesus. (Micah 5.2; Luke 2.4-6; John 7.40-43)
- B. **GENESIS 35.20:** *“And Jacob set a pillar on her grave”*
1. Pillars were often set up as memorials similar to tombstones. (2 Sam. 18.17,18)
 2. Consider how Jacob felt about Rachel. (Gen. 29.10,11,18-20,30)
 3. **GENESIS 35.20:** *“which is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day.”* At the time that Moses wrote this book, the Israelites could visit Rachel’s grave.

II. OCCASION

- A. **GENESIS 35.16:** *“Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor.”*
1. “Hard labor” carries the idea of giving birth with great difficulty.
 - a) Traumatic experiences can often induce labor. (1 Sam. 4.19; Gen. 31.14-16)
 - b) The pain of childbirth is often used to illustrate painful experiences. (Jer. 30.6,7)
 2. Her hard labor led her to believe that the life of her son was in jeopardy. (Gen. 35.17)
- B. **GENESIS 35.18:** *“She called his name Ben-Oni.”*
1. Ben is a Hebrew prefix to indicate genealogy. Literally, “the son of.” Similar to “bar” in the Greek. (cf. Matt. 16.17; Acts 4.36)
 2. **GENESIS 35.18:** *“but his father called him Benjamin.”* Literally, Son of my right hand. Benjamin was not his favorite but was very special. (Gen. 37.3,4; 42.4)
 3. Benjamin and Joseph were the only two biological children of Rachel making them very special to each other and to their father. (Gen. 37.3,4; 42.4; 43.29-31,34)

III. SEPARATION

- A. **GENESIS 35.18:** *“And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died)”*
1. We are a composite of two components -- physical and spiritual. (2 Cor. 4.16-18)
 2. Death is always defined in the Bible as a separation of the physical body and the soul.
 - a) **JAMES 2.26:** *“the body without the spirit is dead.”*
 - b) **2 TIMOTHY 4.6:** *“the time of my departure is at hand.”* (cf. Phil. 1.21-23)
 - c) **2 PETER 1.15:** *“after my decease.”* Decease (exodos): Literally, my departure.
- B. Where do we go when our soul departs from our bodies?
1. Jesus went to Paradise...but not heaven. (Luke 23.43; John 20.17; Acts 2.26,27)
 2. There is a waiting place prior to the day of Judgment called “Hades.” It is divided into two sections. (Luke 19.23-26; 2 Pet. 2.4)