

HOW GOD SANCTIFIED JACOB

TEXT: Gen.35 (Obviously, "rightly dividing the word of truth" is speaking of God's Word. Thus, to teach the Bible, we need to study the Bible and present the Bible. Therefore it is imperative that to teach this or any other series in the Word we need to read and study it carefully. That is why I implore you to read the text first to grasp its contents and then to re read each passage as you proceed.)

INTRO.: A. After this chap. Joseph, not Jacob, will be the focus of Genesis. But before we leave this very human, complicated, sometimes carnal, sometimes spiritual man, we will see how God cuts his earthly ties, e.g. the death of his beloved Rachel. In fact this chap. records **four burials & three funerals**.

B. If God does not do His sanctifying work down here we will enter heaven incomplete & there are no "make up classes" in glory! Rather than complain over the cuts He must make, we should praise His Name.

I. HOW GOD SANCTIFIED JACOB: (35)

A. Jacob As A Believing Man: **v.1-15**

1. Renewing Jacob's spiritual vitality: **v.1-4**

- a. The mention of a place: **v.1a** ("**Bethel**")
- b. The mention of a purpose: **v.1b** ("**Dwell...build an altar**")
- c. The mention of his preparation: **v.2-4**

2. Renewing Jacob's spiritual victory: **v.5**

3. Renewing Jacob's spiritual verity: **v.6-15**

- a. The altar - El-Bethel ("**The Mighty God of the House of God**")
- b. The 1st funeral - Deborah - his mother Rebekah's nurse.
- c. The appearing of the Lord: **v.9-13**

- 1) Jacob's personal name: **v.9,10**
- 2) Jacob's promised fame: **v.11**
- 3) Jacob's perpetual claim: **v.12,13**

B. Jacob as A Bereaved Man: **v.16-29**

1. Bereaved of his favorite - Rachel. **v.16-21**

a. Loss of Rachel - **v.16-21**

- 1) Mistake: **v.16a** "**from Bethel...**"
- 2) Misery: **v.16b-21**

b. Lust of Reuben: **v.22-26**

- 1) Reuben commits incest w/Bilhah.

NOTE: No act happens in a vacuum. Who knows what flirting & philandering took place before this? The one person who could have comforted Jacob was Bilhah & now even this is stolen from him by this shameful act.

- 2) Israel - not Jacob - "**heard it...**"

NOTE: If the Jacob nature had been in control, Reuben would have been a dead man. Jacob did nothing. But the whip of God's judgment was awaiting

Reuben. God ALWAYS punishes sexual immorality. He has moral, social, spiritual, physical & psychological whips to chasten those who sin so.

c. The list of sons: **v.23-26**

1) This list may have been given here to point out that the fact that Reuben was "Jacob's firstborn".

2. Bereaved of his father: **v.27-29**

a. Isaac is 180 yrs. old at this time.

b. There is something poignant in the fact that Jacob & Esau buried him...united for the last time to bury their aged father .

CONCL.: God has now cut the last tie that bound Jacob to earth. He is indeed sanctified.

What will God have to do in your or my life to sanctify (cleanse) us for us to yield completely for His service?