

Introduction

- This is the conclusion of Jacob's story and begins the transition to Joseph.
- God chooses to bless a particular people so that His blessing can spread to the whole world and overcome the curse.

God Appears (35:1-8)

- Jacob has not kept the promises he made to God back in chapter 28.
- Jacob is commanded to return to the promised land and to Bethel.
- He appears to be remaining in Shechem (v. 4).
- All idols and other gods are to be discarded, many of them are likely from Shechem or Rachel's gods.
- God protects them as they journey without the needed help from Jacob's cowardice.
- Jacob finally builds the altar in worship where God first appeared to him.
- Bethel is the most significant place of worship outside of Jerusalem.
- Deborah, the prophets, Samuel, and Elijah will all have significant moments here.
- Deborah, the judge, will sit where Deborah, the nurse, is buried to judge Israel.

Appears Again (35:9-15)

- This is God's last physical appearance in the book of Genesis.
- From now on God will only appear in visions and dreams.
- God appears after proper worship and proper sacrifice.
- God reiterates the Abrahamic covenant.
- Jacob name change is repeated.
- God will be Israel's God.
- God repeats the Adamic command to "be fruitful and multiply."
- Not only will one nation, Israel, come but multiple nations will come from Israel.
- Kings will come from Jacob's body. This unique phrasing points towards Christ.
- The land of Abraham and Isaac will go to Jacob and his descendants.
- The pillar of stone may or may not be the same stone that Jacob previously laid his head on when he first fled from Esau.

Deaths (35:16-29)

- On the way from Bethel to other parts of the promised land, Rachel dies.
- The woman who once cried, "give me a son or I will die," receives a son and dies.
- Significantly, she is not buried in the family plot with Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.
- Jacob does give her a good burial and raises a pillar over her tomb.
- Some say this is because of her worship of foreign gods.
- I think Jacob is buried with Leah because he knows God does not favor polygamy.
- Reuben sleeps with Bililah, Jacob's concubine. Once again Jacob does nothing in the face of sexual sin, but he does not forget.

- Reuben has forfeited his right as the first born son, which explains why Joseph is the focus of the next generation.
- Isaac dies at 180 seeing all of God's promises come true. He is buried by his reconciled sons together in the land of promise.

Esau's Genealogy (36:1-43)

- Chapter 36 is completely focused on Esau's genealogy and family.
- God has not forgotten Esau and Esau was also blessed by God.
- Esau is blessed in a similar way to Ishmael.
- Esau may have lost the birthright, but his own transformation has led to blessing.
- He has six sons, who all go on to more generations.
- Esau gains his own promised land, because the Abrahamic land is too small to fit both him and Jacob (v. 43).
- Esau seems to leave with no problems or fighting with Jacob at all (v. 6).
- Esau's descendants are filled with the chiefs of tribes and even a number of kings.
- Esau's children will have kings before Jacob.
- Esau's descendants will be their own nation, Edom.

Cycle of Worship/Blessing

- We cry out to God when we are in need.
- God responds with His promises.
- We should respond to that promise with worship.
- God keeps His promises.
- We should respond with worship.
- The blessing continues.

Application

- Those with less blessings are not forgotten by God.
- We should worship God in response to him keeping His promises.
- Remember that God keeps His promises.