



GOD

is greater
than

God > Past

Genesis 35

GOD
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than

John Piper—

“A Sweet and Bitter Providence.”

Life is not a straight line leading from one blessing to the next and then finally to heaven. Life is a winding and troubled road. Switchback after switchback. And the point of biblical stories like Joseph and Job and Esther and Ruth is to help us feel in our bones (not just know in our heads) that God is for us in all these strange turns. God is not just showing up after the trouble and cleaning it up. He is plotting the course and managing the troubles with far reaching purpose for our good and for the glory of Jesus Christ.

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Genesis 35:1-4

- 1 Then God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you **when you fled from your brother Esau.**”
- 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “**Put away the foreign gods which are among you,** and purify yourselves and change your garments;
- 3 and **let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an altar there to God,** who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.”
- 4 So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and **Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.**

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Purify your life before God.

Genesis 35:1-7

*Vs. 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and **purify yourselves** and change your garments;*

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Purify your life before God.

Genesis 35:1-7

Be alert to a complacent
compromise with the culture.

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Purify your life before God.

Genesis 35:1-7

Identify those “idols” in your life.

II Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.**

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Ragamuffin Gospel

Honesty is such a precious commodity that it is seldom found in the world or the church. Honesty requires the truthfulness to admit the attachment and addictions that control our attention, dominate our consciousness, and function as false gods. I can be addicted to vodka or to being nice, to marijuana or being loved, to cocaine or being right, to gambling or relationships, to gold or gossiping....

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...Perhaps my addiction is food, performance, money, popularity, power, revenge, reading, television, tobacco, weight, or winning. When we give anything more priority than we give to God, we commit idolatry. Thus we all commit idolatry countless times every day.

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Purify your life before God.

Genesis 35:1-7

Permanently remove them.

“*hid*” = to hide an object so it cannot be found.

“*put away*” = *II Samuel 17:46*, as in “*putting away*” the head of Goliath...

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Purify your life before God.

Genesis 35:1-7

Purify all of your life.

“and purify yourselves and change your garments”

Call on God and seek His help. vs. 3

“I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.”

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Psalm 24:3-5

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?

And who may stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood

And has not sworn deceitfully. He shall

receive a blessing from the LORD

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| Peter 1:18, 19

Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

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Enter into the full presence of God.

Genesis 35:6-15

Vs. 9 Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name.” Thus He called him Israel. God also said to him, “I am God Almighty; Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come forth from you.

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Genesis 35:12-15

“The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you.” Then God went up from him in the place where He had spoken with him.

Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it.

So Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him, Bethel.

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Enter into the full presence of God.

Genesis 35:6-15

- He will change us into a new person.
Jacob to Israel.

Jacob = supplanter, one who comes from behind, deceives.

Israel = God will prevail, fight for us.

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

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Enter into the full presence of God.
Genesis 35:6-15

- He will reveal His love and power to strengthen us.

*El Shaddai.= Almighty, powerful,
tender love for us.*

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Enter into the full presence of God.
Genesis 35:6-15

- He will renew His promises and direction for life.

“The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you”

Philippians 3:8-21

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Genesis 35:16

Then they **journeyed** from Bethel; and when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath...

Bethel = House of God

Ephrath is Bethlehem = House of Bread.

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Persevere to the end of our journey
with God. Genesis 35:16-29

- We will experience great gains and
painful losses.

Benjamin's birth, Rachel's death.

Vs. 16-20

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Genesis 35:16-20

Rachel began to give birth and she suffered severe labor. When she was in severe labor the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for now you have another son.” It came about as her soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni (son of my sorrow) but his father called him Benjamin (son of my right hand, strength). So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day.

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Persevere to the end of our journey
with God. Genesis 35:16-29

- We will suffer from the sins of those
we love.

Rueben's immorality. Vs. 22;

I Chronicles 5:1; Genesis 49:3, 4

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I Chronicles 1:5

Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright.

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Persevere to the end of our journey
with God. Genesis 35:16-29

- We must pass on our faith to the next generation.

*“Now there were twelve sons of Jacob...
Isaac breathed his last and died...”*

vs. 23-29

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To fully experience the Greatness of our God:

I commit to complete purity so I can fully enjoy the presence of God's life in me which will empower me to persevere in all circumstances so I finish well in this life.

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Micah 7:19

He will again have compassion on us;
He will tread our iniquities under foot.
Yes, You will cast all their sins
Into the depths of the sea.

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Idols - from Ragamuffin Gospel

“I can be addicted to vodka or to being nice, to marijuana or being loved, to cocaine or being right, to gambling or relationships, to gold or gossiping. Perhaps my addiction is food, performance, money, popularity, power, revenge, reading, television, tobacco, weight, or winning. When we give anything more priority than we give to God, we commit idolatry. Thus we all commit idolatry countless times every day.”

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