

# GOD is greater than > past

## Genesis 35

### To experience the full greatness of God in your life:

#### ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ your life before God. Genesis 35:1-7

*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;" vs. 2*

*Psalm 24:3-5; II Corinthians 11:2, 3; I Peter 1:18, 19*

- Be alert to a complacent compromise with the culture.
- Identify those "idols" in your life.
- Permanently remove them. "hid" "put away"
- Purify all of your life. *and purify yourselves and change your garments*
- Call on God and seek His help. *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." vs. 3*

#### ❖ Enter into the full \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Genesis 35:6-15

*Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. vs. 9*

*John 1:14-18; Colossians 1:15*

- He will change us into a new person. *Jacob to Israel.* II Corinthians 5:17
- He will reveal His love and power to strengthen us. *El Shaddai.*
- 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

#### ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ 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
- We will suffer from the sins of those we love. *Rueben's immorality.* vs. 22; I Chronicles 5:1; Genesis 49:3, 4
- 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

## Digging Deeper

To be fully assured of the greatness of God for your life, it is important to begin where Jacob began. He called his people to remove all idols from their lives. Apparently over time, they had acquired these idols from the pagan practices of Canaan and other nations. Here is this man of God that will form a new nation for God, and as he journeys to the Promised Land, his people had collected foreign idols. How easy it can be for children of God to acquire and acclimate to the values of the culture around us.

They had become too complacent and compromised in their faith so that they acquired idols” in their lives. Today, we do not have idols or statutes that we bow to. Rather, the idols of today can be much more subtle. It can be anything that nudges me away from Christ and replaces Him as the center piece of my mind, time, energy, passion and desires in this world. Read II Corinthians 11:2, 3. What warning or danger does Paul give to you in this great passage?

Purity of our lives is to be complete. Jacob tells them to change their clothes. This does not mean that purity is a work we accomplish, but this act is symbolic of a cleansing from God and we reflect it externally. Read Exodus 19:9-11. God was going to appear to the Jews and they were to prepare and purify themselves to fully encounter His presence in their lives. How do you get “ready” to encounter God in holiness?

Changing the clothes then symbolized a moral and spiritual purity of mind and heart, the whole of their lives.

Leviticus 16:30. Jeremiah 33:8; I John 1:9 Micah 7:19 Who provides that cleansing?

Read through David’s prayer of repentance in Psalm 51 as your act of confession and desire for cleansing of all sin so you may have the joy of your salvation.

God desires to appear to us so we can be blessed, even as He blessed Jacob in Genesis 35:9-16. God does not appear to us today as He did with Jacob, but we have Jesus Christ, who is God in human flesh, who has come to reveal God and come into our lives. Read John 1:14-18; Colossians 1:15. What do these passages teach about Christ?

In Colossians 1:27, if you have trusted in Christ as your Savior and He has forgiven your sins to be born again spiritually, where is Christ?

What does God ask of you in Hebrews 10:22, 23?

God wants to bless us. There is a beautiful picture in Genesis 35:16 that is not obvious. Jacob travels from Bethel to Ephrath. Bethel means “house of God.” Ephrath is Bethlehem which means “house of bread.” Jacob went a short distance from Bethel, the house of God, to Bethlehem, “the house of bread.” In other words, it is a short distance from the place where our souls are restored to God to find the house where nourishment and rest is provided on our journey.

## Response at the Stations

**COMMUNION** - This Sunday communion is available around the room at several stations. Take the elements of the bread and the cup in remembrance of what Christ has done for you.

**GIVING** - We encourage you and your family to bring your offering, as your prayerful gift of worship to God, to the containers located at the stations. Offering envelopes are available in the chair racks for your use.

**PRAYER** - After the message, there will be prayer counselors in the Prayer Booth, located on the far right side of the auditorium, to pray with you this morning.



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