

Chapter 35

- 35:1 And God said unto Jacob,
Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.
- 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him,
Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:
- 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.
- 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears;
and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.
- 35:5 And they journeyed:
and ***the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them,***
and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.
thought: *This is the remedy for Jacob's concern about the neighbors, as it is recorded in Genesis 34:30.*
- 35:6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him.
- 35:7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.
- 35:8 But Deborah, Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth.
- 35:9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.
- 35:10 And God said unto him,
Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name:
and he called his name Israel.
- 35:11 And God said unto him,
I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;
- 35:12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.
- 35:13 And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.
- 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.
- 35:15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel.
- 35:16 And they journeyed from Bethel;
and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath:
and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.
- 35:17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour,
that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.
- 35:18 And it came to pass,

as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni:
but his father called him *Benjamin*.

35:19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

35:20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.

35:21 And Israel journeyed,
and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.

35:22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land,
that ***Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine:***
and Israel heard it.

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

thought: *One could envision that things proceeded thusly: by this action, Reuben had isolated himself from being able to inherit the promise of God to Abraham; and, too, it also seems that he had made himself much like Hamor and Shechem, whom his siblings, next-in-line to him, had killed; in that, Reuben had made his father's concubine play a part as of a harlot. Was he not, therefore, just as worthy of death as Hamor and Shechem (if, indeed, they were worthy of death)?*

Here, we pose an alternative outcome for ones of our modern time that are such as Shechem and Hamor: Reuben's disposition, of escaping lethal recompense, may allow for a different possible outcome for ones such as Hamor and Shechem. Maybe, in another comparable situation, ones such as Hamor and Shechem could have been given the opportunity to redeem themselves, by proceeding with the marriage; moreover, they can also work toward redeeming themselves from their scheming, by publicly recanting their intention to defraud Jacob, and then showing their newness of heart, by seeking God's forgiveness for their intrusive action against Dinah. Though, I guess that was an unlikely set of actions to expect from the ones of that time.

35:23 The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:

35:24 The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin:

35:25 And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali:

35:26 And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid: Gad, and Asher:
these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.

35:27 And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.

35:28 And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.

35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days:
and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.