

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Revival"
Genesis 35:1-29
Study-63

Revival – *"an act or instance of reviving:
a renewed attention or interest in something, a restoration of force"*

Jacob is in great need of revival!

Genesis 34 is a Godless chapter, with no mention of God

Genesis 35, God is mentioned **11 times**, not to mention the compound names of God.

We have the **1st recorded "Revival in the Bible."**
Jacob needed the Lord! He needed to get back to God!

**Jacob Saved Genesis 28, Jacob Subdued Genesis 29-32,
Jacob Separated Genesis 33-34, Finally, Jacob Sanctified Genesis 35**

Thought Of Our Passage: Alexander Whyte said,
"The Victorious Christian Life Is A Series Of New Beginnings"

- 1. Verses 1-15 New Start:**
- 2. Verses 16-29 New Sorrow:**

1. Verses 1-15 New Start:

Genesis 35:1 Then

Context - Genesis 34 "Godless Chapter" God not mentioned. **Dinah** was raped. Brothers **Simeon** and **Levi**, using circumcision as a ruse, went and murdered all the men of Shechem. They then looted the city and took all livestock, women, and children. Jacob's response is so weak! **"You brought trouble on me!"**

Revival Starts With God's Word: God said,
"When the Bible Speaks, God Speaks."
(Genesis 35, God mentioned 11 times)
How did God speak to Jacob?

2 Kings 22 Josiah,
Nehemiah 8 a revival that started with the reading of Scripture.

Revival Always Starts With Me:
God said to Jacob, God spoke to Jacob, who needed reviving.

James 5:19 The word **strays (err)** mean *"to wander,"*
it suggests a gradual moving away from the will of God.

The OT term is **"Backsliding."**
It means "failing to have progression in growth and maturity!"

"Arise, go up to Bethel,

(Jacob's family is in physical danger. They need to leave the ungodly place)
This was 20 miles South, so you also go up physically.
Bethel was 1000 feet higher.

It speaks of going up spiritually.

Jacob has been in a spiritual valley for over a decade, and God wanted him to come out and up!

That 20 miles was the difference between God's will and Jacob's will.

and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." Why Bethel? Jacob first met God!

Jacob made a vow to God that if God provided, he would return –

Genesis 28:20-22

Notice that God reminded Jacob of the place he was made right with God and vowed. Revelation 2:5

Verses 2-7 - Four Steps To Coming Back To God:

1. Put Away Foreign gods:

Genesis 35:2 "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, Rachel had taken Laban's household gods. **Genesis 31:19**

What are the false gods doing in our house?

Definition of an **idol** – "*is anything that takes the rightful place of God*"

Colossians 3:5

Genesis 35:3-4 The rings in the ears were some idolatry occult symbolism engraved. (From Shechem booty, stuff taken as spoils)

Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.

Jacob buried them.

2. Purify Yourself: Genesis 35:2 and purify yourselves

How? It is speaking spiritually about being right with God.

It is the confession of our sins. **1 John 1:9**

Confess – "*To agree with*"

That we don't hide but come clean with God as to what we have done.

Psalms 32:5; Psalm 51:2-3

3. Change Your Garments: Genesis 35:2 and change your garments;

Garments *represent the old life with its failures, our attitude, and our old life. We are to put this old stuff off.* **Ephesians 4:22-24**

Genesis 35:5 there was a great terror upon the cities which were around them, This speaks about our effective witness when we are right with God.

4. Obedience: Genesis 35:6 So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel),

Obedience

Don't expect others to change if we don't change ourselves!

Genesis 35:7 He built an altar there,

God had been faithful, and His promise has been fulfilled. (**Genesis 28:15**)

and called the place El-bethel, (*The Strong God of the house of God*)

James 1:22

Verse 8 God's People Experience Sorrow:

Genesis 35:8 Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died,

Notice that sorrow follows renewal.

Deborah was the family servant of Jacob's mother, Rebekah's **Genesis 24:59**

Verses 9-15 God Reaffirmed The Covenant With Israel:

Genesis 35:9 Then God appeared to Jacob again

It has been 30 years since God's 1st appearance

Genesis 35:10 Jacob – cheat, supplanter to **Israel** – governed or controlled by God.

Genesis 35:11 God also said to him, "I am God Almighty; "El Shaddai"

This is an encouraging name!

"Give the strength to change, strong enough to meet every need."

God revealed to Abram **Genesis 17:1**, Isaac **Genesis 28:3**, and now to Jacob.

Be fruitful and multiply;

Jacob is 120 years old and speaks about being fruitful.

A nation and a company of nations shall come from you,

The nation of Israel with the 12 tribes.

And kings shall come forth from you.

Starting with Saul, David, Solomon

Genesis 35:12-13

Jacob's Relationship Is Renewed:

Genesis 35:14-15 1st Time Drink Offering In Scripture.

To pour out! To sacrifice

2. Verses 16-29 New Sorrow:

Verses 16-20 Birth And Death: Genesis 35:16 Ephrath, fruitful" (Bethlehem) "house of bread" Rachel began to give birth and she suffered severe labor. Jacob travels to his old home, Hebron, Beersheba.

Rachel prayed for another son **Genesis 30:24.**

Micah 5:2; Luke 2 Mary with child on the way to Bethlehem.

Genesis 35:17-18

Earthly Response To Hardship:

Ben-oni; *"Son of sorrow, son of my misfortune."*

Faith's Response To Hardship:

but his father (Jacob, 120 years old) called him Benjamin.

"Son of my right hand" Place of honor.

Benjamin, Son #12 of Israel.

Genesis 35:19 So Rachel died

Getting right with God does not guarantee a problem-free life.

Genesis 35:20 Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; Genesis 48:7

Verses 21-22 Israel Encounters Sin:

Genesis 35:21 his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

"An arrangement drove, or flock"

Genesis 35:22 that Reuben (30's) went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; "incest" mother of his two brothers **Dan, Naphtali**

and Israel heard of it.

Jacob is not responsible for the actions of his son **Reuben**, but Jacob is responsible for what he does about it.

Genesis 49:3-4 Judged By Jacob!

Verses 23-26 The 12 Sons of Israel: Genesis 35:23-26

Verses 27-29 The Death Of Isaac: Genesis 35:27 (that is, Hebron), (Fellowship) where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

Israel stays 10-12 years.

Genesis 35:28-29 Death of a family servant, wife, and now his father. Jacob got right with God, and then all these events took place.

and was gathered to his people,

Speaks of heaven and the reunion **Psalms 116:15**

Application: Four Steps To Coming Back To God:

- 1. Put Away Foreign gods:** idol – *"is anything that takes the rightful place of God"*
- 2. Purify Yourself:** Confession of our sins. Confess – "To agree with" That we don't hide but come clean with God as to what we have done.
- 3. Change Your Garments:** Garments represent the old life with its failures, our attitude, and our old life. We are to put this old stuff off.
- 4. Obedience:** Obedience is what Jacob did. Don't expect others to change if we don't change ourselves! We need to get right with God.