### Genesis

## Chapter 35

1Then The God told Jacob:  
  
 ‘You must get up and go to the place [you named] BethEl, and live there. And then you must build an altar to the God who appeared to you there when you were running from your brother Esau.’  
  
2So Jacob told his family and everyone who lived with him:  
  
 ‘You must get rid of any strange gods that you may have, then wash yourselves, change your clothes, 3and get ready, because we’re going up to BethEl, where we’ll build an altar to the God who listened to me, was with me, and kept me safe through my journeys and trials.’  
  
4So they gave Jacob all the strange gods that they owned and the earrings in their ears, and Jacob buried [these things] under a turpentine tree at SheChem, where they’ve remained destroyed down to this day.  
  
5Then IsraEl left SheChem, and because the cities around them had the fear of The God in them, they didn’t chase after the children of IsraEl.  
  
  
  
6Well, Jacob and all the people who were with him finally arrived at Luza in the land of CanaAn, which [he’d earlier named] BethEl... 7For it was there that he’d built an altar and called it ‘the House of God,’ since that’s the place where God appeared to him as he was running from his brother Esau.  
  
8Well thereafter, RebecKa’s nurse DeborAh died, and she was buried under an oak tree in BethEl that Jacob then named, AlLon-BaCuth [meaning, Oak Tree of Mourning].  
  
9It was at Luza that God appeared to Jacob again as he was on his way back from MesoPotamia of Syria, and that’s when God blest him 10and told him:  
  
 ‘You’ll no longer be called Jacob... Your name will be IsraEl.’  
  
So that’s when [God] first referred to him as IsraEl.  
  
11Then The God said to him:  
  
 ‘I am your God, so prosper and grow… Nations and groups of nations will descend from you, and kings will come from your loins. 12I’m now giving this land that I gave to AbraHam and IsaAc to you, as well as to the offspring that descends from you.’  
  
13Then The God left him there in that place where He spoke to him. 14And Jacob erected a [stone] pillar [to honor] the place where he’d been spoken to by God, pouring a drink offering and oil upon it.  
  
15And that’s when Jacob actually named this place where God spoke to him, BethEl [meaning, House of God].  
  
  
  
16[Well, after DeborAh died], Jacob left BethEl and camped beyond the tower of Gader. And as they were getting close to ChabRatha, on their way to EphRatha, RachEl had birth pains and then she went into hard labor. 17It was while she was in hard labor that the midwife told her:  
  
 ‘Don’t worry, you’re going to have this son!’  
  
18Then, as she was giving up her life (she was dying), she named him BenOni [meaning, Son of My Pain]. However, his father named him BenJamin [meaning, Son of My Right Hand].  
  
19So RachEl died there and was buried along the road to EphRatha (BethLehem), 20and Jacob erected a pillar over her tomb, [which is referred to as] The Pillar of RachEl’s Tomb to this day.  
  
  
21It was while IsraEl was living in this land that ReuBen went and [had sex] with BalLa, Jacob’s (his father’s) concubine. And when IsraEl heard about this, it really upset him.  
  
  
  
22Now, there were 12 sons of Jacob.  
  
23LeAh’s sons were:  
  
 • ReuBen (Jacob’s first-born), then  
 • SimeOn,  
 • Levi,  
 • Judah,  
 • IshSachar, and   
 • ZebuLon.  
  
24RachEl’s sons were:  
  
 • JoSeph, and  
 • BenJamin.  
  
25RachEl’s handmaid BalLa’s sons were:  
  
 • Dan, and  
 • NaphTali.  
  
26And LeAh’s handmaid ZelPha’s sons were:  
  
 • Gad, and  
 • Asher.  
  
These sons were born to Jacob in MesoPotamia of Syria.  
  
  
27Then Jacob returned to his father IsaAc in MamRe, to a city of the plains [called] HebRon (in the land of CanaAn), where AbraHam and IsaAc had stayed. 28For IsaAc had lived 180 years 29before he stopped breathing and died.  
  
Then his sons Esau and Jacob buried him beside his family, after he’d lived a long and full life.