

EPISODE NO. 33

Gen. 35:1-5,9,11-15

Jacob Returned to Bethel

1 Then God said to Jacob, "Get up and go up to Bethel. Live there and build an altar there to El, the One who appeared to you when you were running away from your brother Esau."

2 So, Jacob said to the members of his family and to all those who were with him, "Get rid of your foreign gods which you have! Make yourselves pure, and change your clothes! 3 Let us get up and go up to Bethel. I will build an altar there to El, the One who answered my cry for help. He was with me when I traveled on that road."

4 So, they surrendered to Jacob all the idols which were in their hands, and they gave up their ear-rings. And Jacob buried them under the oak tree at the town of Shechem. 5 Then they started their journey. The dread of God was upon the surrounding towns. Those people did NOT chase the sons of Jacob.

9 After Jacob came back from Padan-Aram, God appeared to him again. And, God blessed him.

11 Then God said to him, "I am God Almighty. Be fertile and increase in number. A nation -- even a group of nations -- will come from you. There will be kings among your children's children. 12 I will promise the land to you which I promised to Abraham and Isaac. I will give it to your descendants. 13 Then God went up from the place where He was talking with Jacob.

14 Jacob set up a pillar at the spot where God talked with him. It was a stone pillar. Jacob poured out a drink-offering and some olive oil upon it.

15 Jacob named the spot where God talked with him "Bethel."