

GENESIS: BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Jacob

Preparing to Worship – Part 2

Genesis 35:1-22



bethel community
CHURCH

Rev. Bradley S. Belcher, Senior Pastor

Preparing to Worship

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

A photograph of a flock of sheep, with the text 'BACK TO THE BEGINNING' overlaid in white capital letters. The sheep are white with some brown markings, and they are looking towards the camera. The background is a natural, outdoor setting.

Preparing to Worship

Genesis 35:1-22 God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. 3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” -

BACK TO THE BEGINNING



Preparing to Worship

4 So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem. 5 And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. 6 And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, 7 and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. -

Preparing to Worship

8 And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth. 9 God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. 10 And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. 11 And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. -

Preparing to Worship

12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.” **13** Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. **14** And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. **15** So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel. **16** Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. -

BACK TO THE BEGINNING



Preparing to Worship

17 And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another son.” **18** And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. **19** So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), **20** and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. **21** Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder. -

Preparing to Worship

**22 While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it.
(ESV)**

BACK TO THE BEGINNING



Preparing to Worship

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

A photograph of a flock of sheep, with several sheep looking directly at the camera. The sheep are white with thick, woolly coats. The background is slightly blurred, showing more sheep in the flock.

Preparing to Worship

- I. God is calling us to worship Him.
 - A. It is good to go up to God's house with God's people.
 - B. It is good to make our abode with God.
 - C. It is good to worship the One who has appeared for us.

Preparing to Worship

- II. How should we prepare to worship?
- A. By burying our old way of life.
- B. By putting off sin.
- C. By putting on Christ.
- D. By creating an environment of worship in our lives.
- E. By remembering all that He has done for us.

Preparing to Worship

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

A photograph of a flock of sheep, with the text 'BACK TO THE BEGINNING' overlaid in white capital letters. The sheep are white with some brown markings, and they are looking towards the camera. The background is a natural, outdoor setting.

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

A. We can worship God in the presence of our enemies.

5 And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

- *Psalm 23:1-6 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. -*

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

A. We can worship God in the presence of our enemies.

- *4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

B. We can worship God with all our people.

6 And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, 7 and there he built an altar and called the place El- bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother.

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

C. We can worship God in the face of sorrow.

8 And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth.

- *Psalm 22:1-5 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. -*

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

C. We can worship God in the face of sorrow.

- *3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. 4 In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. 5 To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

D. We can worship God as He works wonders in our life.

9 God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan- aram, and blessed him. 10 And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel.

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

D. We can worship God as He works wonders in our life.

- *Philippians 1:6* **And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**
- *Philippians 2:12-16* **Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, -**

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

D. We can worship God as He works wonders in our life.

- *13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.*

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

E. We can worship God for His trustworthy promises.

11 And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. 12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." 13 Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. -

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

E. We can worship God for His trustworthy promises.

14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. 15 So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

F. We can worship God through great joy and great loss.

16 Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. 17 And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son." 18 And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. -

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

F. We can worship God through great joy and great loss.

19 So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), 20 and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. 21 Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

Preparing to Worship

III. When can we worship God?

G. We can worship God even when others turn away.

22 While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it.

Preparing to Worship

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

A photograph of a flock of sheep, with the text 'BACK TO THE BEGINNING' overlaid in white, serif, all-caps font. The sheep are in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing more sheep and some greenery.

Preparing to Worship

God is calling all of us to return to Him in worship.

But how should we prepare to worship God? We can prepare to worship Him by burying our old way of life, by putting off sin and putting on Christ, by creating an environment of worship in our lives, and by doing all we can to worship Him for all that He is and for all that He has done for us.

BACK TO THE BEGINNING



Preparing to Worship

BACK TO THE BEGINNING



GENESIS: BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Jacob

A large flock of sheep is shown in a green field. The sheep are of various shades of white and light brown. The name 'Jacob' is written in a stylized, yellow, 3D font with a black outline, positioned in the center of the image over the sheep.

