

Genesis 35-37

Worldview: Man Cannot Alter God's Plan

And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed"-- for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. (Act 4:24-28)

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (Joh 6:37)

Part 1: The Death of Rachel (35:16-20)

1. Rachel dies giving birth to a son.
2. Before dying, she names him Ben-Oni (son of my trouble)
3. Jacob instead names him Benjamin (son of my right hand)

Questions:

1. **Where is Rachel buried?**
2. **What is the significance of that city in Scripture? (see Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:18)**

Part 2: The Death of Isaac (35:21-29)

1. Reuben lay with his father's concubine (mother of Dan and Naphtali)
2. Israel heard of it.
3. The twelve sons of Jacob are re-capped.
4. Jacob returns to Hebron
5. Isaac dies at 180 years old
6. Esau and Jacob bury him.

Questions:

1. **What happens to Reuben (the firstborn) as a result of his sin? (See 1 Chronicles 5:1-2)**
2. **What happened previously to the next in line (Simeon and Levi)?**
3. **Who is next in line after Reuben, Simeon, and Levi?**
4. **What is the significance of Jacob returning to Hebron before Isaac dies? See Genesis 28:20-21**

Part 3: The Generations of Esau (Chapter 36)

1. Establishes the history of Edom (verse 1)
2. Esau separates from Jacob and lives in Seir
3. Jacob's and Esau's possessions were too great for them to dwell together – because of their livestock.
4. Esau's generations are established.

Questions:

1. **How are Jacob's and Esau's circumstances similar to Abraham's and Lot's?**
2. **What is the significance of establishing what happens to Esau? (See Gen 25:23; Num 24:17-18; Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:13-18)**

Part 4: The Hated Favorite Child

1. Unlike Esau, Jacob “lived in the land of his father's sojournings”.
2. Joseph's brothers hate him:
 - a. He brings his father a bad report about the sons of Bilhah and sons of Zilpah: Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali; Zilpah: Gad and Asher.
 - b. They saw that Jacob loved him the most: robe of many colors (ornate robe in NIV)
 - c. Two dreams:
 - i. Binding sheaves: their sheaves bowed down to Joseph's sheaves
 - ii. Sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to him.

Question: What is the significance of Joseph having two different dreams? See Gen 41:32

Part 5: The “Dashing of Dreams”

1. Jacob sends Joseph to check on his brothers.
2. He finds them in Dothan
3. They conspire to kill him – “then we'll see what comes of his dreams”
4. Reuben convinces them to throw him in the pit but not kill him.
5. Caravan of Ishmaelites comes along headed to Egypt.
6. Judah convinces the other brothers to see Joseph to the Ishmaelites
7. Reuben returns to find Joseph gone – what will be the story to Jacob?
8. They took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.
9. They send the robe back to their father who assumes that Joseph has been torn to pieces.
10. He tore his garments and declares that “I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.”
11. Joseph is sold in Egypt to Potiphar – Pharaoh's captain of the guard.

Questions:

1. **Who sold Joseph? (see Gen 37:26-28; 37:36; 39:1; Judges 8:22-24)**
2. **Discuss the irony of the brothers' statement in 37:20.**

Next Week: Genesis 38-39