

Dr. Dennis Wiles
Pastor's Bible Study
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Genesis
THE END... THE BEGINNING
Genesis 35-36
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TO BETHEL: It was time for Jacob to return to Beth-El - the place where God revealed Himself to the patriarch when he was fleeing Esau.

PURITY AND PROTECTION: The journey to Beth-El begins with a time of purification. The success of the journey was guaranteed by God's protective hand.

REVELATION AND BLESSING: Jacob arrived in Beth-El to the news that his mother's nurse had died. However, God revealed Himself again to the patriarch in the face of his grief. God's hand was with Jacob and the future of the promise was still intact.

DEATH AND LIFE: Jacob's grief was compounded by the death of Rachel, his beloved. Also, his father Isaac died. Jacob and Esau would bury their father. In the face of death and grief, Jacob's only son to be born in Canaan, Benjamin, was born.

ESAU: Chapter 36 is a lengthy account of the descendants of Esau. Esau's family (Edomites) will have a more favorable future than the descendants of Ishmael with regard to Israel's perspective.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The promise given to Abraham continues to be shepherded by Jacob.
2. Jacob's sojourn outside of Canaan has come to an end. The beginning of a new chapter within Canaan has begun.
3. Acknowledgment of God's presence of blessing through worship is a vital part of the patriarchal narrative.
4. God's plan for redemption continues to be played out on the human stage.