

# The Birth of a Nation

## A Study in Genesis 25-36

Your Name is Israel  
Genesis 35:1-29  
May 2, 2021

God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; you shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." - Genesis 35:10

### I. UNDESERVED GRACE

- In spite of the nastiness of the previous episode, God calls Jacob home (Vs. 1; Gen. 12:1-3; Luke 15:17).
- We cannot out give God. His grace is nothing short of amazing (Mark 7:24-35; John 21:15-17).

### II. PREPARING TO MEET GOD

- Jacob advises his family to get ready to meet God. Idols are buried, clothing is changed. Our God is not our buddy, he is a consuming fire (Deut. 4:24, 9:3; Heb. 12:28-29).
- God goes before Jacob's clan, protecting them from rightful retribution (Vs. 5).
- An altar is built there "to God, who answered [Jacob] in the day of his distress and has been with him wherever he has gone" (Vss. 2, 7).

### III. A PROMISE CONFIRMED

- God appears to Jacob once again, confirms his name change, and promises him his full blessing: Descendants, land, a nation, and a future kingdom (Vss. 9-13).
- The results of the promise are demonstrated. Twelve sons, representing the fullness of Israel, are named for Jacob (Vss. 23-26).
- Kings will come from Jacob, but it will not be from Reuben, his firstborn, nor Simeon or Levi. Judah will carry the scepter forward (Vs. 22; Gen. 49:2-12).

### IV. FOUR BURIALS

- Jacob lives on, but the center of the narrative now shifts to his sons, primarily Joseph.
- Idols are buried, Deborah is buried, Rachel is buried, and Isaac as well. Another generation is passing (Vss. 4, 8, 19, 29).

**KNOW:** Another generation is passing. Much good has transpired in this one, and much has been left wanting. Obedience has lacked. Some of the sin and foolishness of Jacob's life is now being visited upon him, but God remains ever faithful.

**DO:** Keep a sharp focus on God to the very end.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Obedience Option* by David W. Hegg (LifePoint Library #248.4 Hegg)

*True Spirituality* by Francis Schaeffer (LifePoint Library #248.4 SCH)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### **Please Read Genesis 35:1-29**

1. Follow the flow of the narrative. What seems to be the main point?
2. Why, do you think, do some in Jacob's clan still have foreign gods (idols) in their possession?
3. Why does God change Jacob's name (again)?
4. The "Jacob narrative" is drawing to a close. What are your thoughts concerning Jacob?
5. Why the sordid story of Reuben and Bilhah in verses 22?
6. Are you learning any consistent ideas from our study through Genesis thus far? Are you making any life changes?