

Theme: JACOB RETURNS TO BETHEL

Memory Verse: *Hosea 10:12 “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you”.*

Texts: Genesis 35:1-15

Bethel, meaning the house of God, was a town twelve miles north of Jerusalem (it was formerly called Luz - an almond tree). This was where Jacob, more than 20 years earlier had an uncommon life-transforming encounter with God (Genesis 28:10-22; 31:13). The place can rightly be described as his spiritual birthplace because it was in Bethel he first made a personal commitment unto the Lord.

There, the former promises made to his father were repeated and ratified to him. It was at this spiritual zenith that he first drew the refreshing breath of prayers as he made a vow of life commitment unto the Almighty God. This same venue became a significant port for other notable spiritual events in the annals of the Israelites (Judges 1:22; 4:5; 1 Samuel 7:16; 1 Kings 13: 1-10; 2 Kings 2:2,23; 17:28; 2 Kings 10:29).

Jacob’s first experience at Bethel is strikingly typical of the believer’s glorious initial encounter with the Lord at salvation, commonly characterized by unreserved heart surrender, holy innocence, passionate love, zeal, prompt and implicit obedience, heaven-consciousness and the desire to make Christ known. But just like many Christians today, Jacob had failed to cultivate this blissful experience and had thereby lost it. That was why God had to call him back to Bethel. What every individual Christian, yea Christendom as a whole, so urgently and desperately needs now is nothing but a return to Bethel. This experience in theological parlance, is called revival, a term often misunderstood, though. These days, it is doubtful if many of those who talk much about it really understand it.

| | DAILY BIBLE READING | |
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| | MORNING | EVENING |
| SUNDAY | Daniel 2 | Daniel 3 |
| MONDAY | Daniel 4 | Daniel 5 |
| TUESDAY | Daniel 6 | Daniel 7 |
| WEDNESDAY | Daniel 8 | Daniel 9 |
| THURSDAY | Daniel 10 | Daniel 11 |
| FRIDAY | Daniel 12 | Hosea 1 |
| SATURDAY | Hosea 2 | Hosea 3 |