

LESSON 30

29.07.18

Theme: CONCRETE LANDMARKS AWAY FROM BETHEL

Memory Verse: *Rev. 3:1 “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”*

Texts: Genesis 30:28-31; 31:19-21

Jacob was once in a difficult situation. He reconciled with his brother Esau only a short while ago and now he is in trouble with his neighbours. He was afraid that the Canaanites and Perizites may attack him (Genesis 34:30). He did not know what to do. He was in a dilemma. It was at this point that God called him to return to Bethel. Jacob left Bethel over twenty years ago when he was fleeing from his brother Esau. He has almost forgotten about Bethel while acquiring wives, children and wealth. In these many years much water had gone under the bridge of Jacob’s life. His has a polygamous family with all the attendant conflicts.

He had no time to teach his family anything about the God of his fathers. Jacob’s need of God was merely for provision and protection. Jacob, even after Jabbok, was deteriorating once more. It was at this point God asked him to “arise and go up to Bethel”. After Jacob’s initial experience at Bethel, his spiritual walk had been wobbling, disturbed by so many faults, and the Adamic nature in him had grown again and had captured him. For instance, because of selfish struggle for riches, he had greedily defrauded Laban in a business deal (Genesis 30:28-31:2). Second, he had also tolerated idolatrous activities of his household (Genesis 31:19-21, 30-35; 35:2). Third, he had become permissive and indulgent in child training, an attitude which gave Dinah the leeway to roam carelessly among the Canaanites thereby getting defiled (Genesis 34:1-3). Fourth, the same indulgence emboldened two of his sons, Simeon and Levi, in self-will, deceit vengeance to ruthlessly massacre all the males of Shechem (Genesis 34:25-29).

Jacob was at this time only exhibiting a form of godliness while denying the power thereof. In the language of the New Testament, he hath a name that (he) livest, and art dead. (Revelation 3:1). God wanted Jacob to return to his first love. Danger lurks where an attainment of a measure of spiritual success and stability is followed by neglect of the means of grace and essential spiritual exercises of prayer, reading God’s word, obedience, fellowship and witnessing. No level of spiritual attainment that can guarantee immunity against backsliding. God equally expects an urgent cry for revival from the believer or a local group of Christians when they notice in their lives and in their relationship with God and, with one another that there is spiritual dryness, decline and appalling moral darkness, absence of honesty and truthfulness, false teaching and false doctrine, selfishness and carnality in prayer, levity in handling matters relating to sin in the individual life and in the local church, erosion of the dividing line between the believer and the non-believer, lack of dedication, consecration and commitment to soul-winning and spiritual service.

	DAILY BIBLE READING	
	MORNING	EVENING
SUNDAY	Hosea 4	Hosea 5
MONDAY	Hosea 6	Hosea 7
TUESDAY	Hosea 8	Hosea 9
WEDNESDAY	Hosea 10	Hosea 11
THURSDAY	Hosea 12	Hosea 13
FRIDAY	Hosea 14	Joel 1
SATURDAY	Joel 2	Joel 3