

ANALYSIS:

1. What three commands did Jacob give his household after God called him to go up and dwell at Bethel? _____

2. How did God protect Jacob from the people around him that he feared? _____

3. What three events marked Bethlehem in this chapter? _____

4. Jacob comes to his father at Hebron before Isaac dies at age _____.

5. Which command(s) of God (v 1) did Jacob keep and which did he not keep in this chapter?

[keep] _____

[not keep] _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Jacob remembers that the LORD appeared to him in the day of his distress over 20 years before when he fled from Esau. And that the LORD was with him in all the way which he went and led him to his kindred where he married his second cousins once removed (Leah & Rachel). The LORD gave him possessions of great wealth plus 11 sons at this time. When he builds this later altar at Bethel, he calls it El-Beth-el, meaning, "God of Bethel." Thus he appears to emphasize the person of God more than just the place where he worships God. Are we growing spiritually so we can say we know God as our Heavenly Father more intimately and personally today than we did when we were converted, or last decade, or last year or even last month?

Does Jacob's call for his household to "put away the strange gods, be clean and change your garments" remind us of the need to examine ourselves and prepare ourselves to worship God acceptably? (1 Cor 11:28; 2 Cor 13:5; Ps 139:23-24; Isa 6:1-5).

HELP:

1. "Put away the strange gods that are among you, be clean, change your garments" (v 2).

2. "the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob" (v 5).

3. Rachel bore Benjamin there, Rachel died there, Rachel was buried there.

4. Isaac died at age 180.

5. [keep] Jacob did go up to Bethel (v 6), he built an altar there (v 7), [not keep] but it appears that he did not "dwell there" for he "journeyed from Bethel" (v 16).