

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What types of things would we need to “put away” before we can come before God in prayer?
2. Why did Jacob **hide** the strange gods?
3. How can we “build altars” to remind us of God’s working in our life?
4. What covenant does God make with Believers?

SUMMARY:

God is always anxious to have us come to Him for any reason. This is evidenced by the number of times He heard the cries of Israel in spite of what had gone on before. We must, however, come to Him on His conditions if we are to receive the mercy which we seek and the help which we do so often need. His conditions are simple and are outlined throughout His Holy Word. The Psalmist said, “*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*” (Psalm 66:18) Paul said in one of his letters to the churches, “*in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*” (Philippians 4:6).

Jacob also knew the conditions and took steps to fulfill them. He had his household first discard their strange gods and cleanse themselves and they prepared to return to the place where they had found God in the past. This is a very good way to find the heart of God, cleanse ourselves and return to that place where we found God.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

May 18, 2014

Second Quarter

JACOB RETURNS TO BETHEL

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 35:1-15*

LESSON SETTING: God sends Jacob to Bethel.

TIME: Approximately 1732 B.C.

- I. GOD’S RENEWED CALL.** Genesis 35:1
 - A. Jacob’s Vow. Genesis 28:20-22
 - B. God’s Call to Fulfillment. Genesis 31:13; 35:1
- II. JACOB’S RENEWED CONSECRATION.** Genesis 35:2-8
 - A. Preparation for the Lord (vs. 2) 1 Samuel 7:3; Luke 1:17; 2 Timothy 2:21
 - B. Spiritual Cleansing (vs. 2) 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 3:3
 - C. Obedience (vs. 3) 1 Samuel 15:22; James 1:25
- III. GOD’S RENEWED COVENANT.** Genesis 35:9-15
 - A. God’s Covenant with Jacob. Genesis 28:13-15
 - B. The Covenant Renewed (vs. 9-12)
 - C. A New Name (vs. 10)
 - D. God’s Covenant with Believers. Revelation 21:7
 - E. God’s Promises to Believers. John 1:12; 6:35; Revelation 2:17

GOLDEN TEXT: *IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.*
1 John 1:9

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 37:1-36; Psalm 105:17-19

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 27:1-10

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT

INTRODUCTION:

The sons of Jacob felt that they had an unbearable problem. That problem was the favorite son of their father. This younger brother stayed at home while they were out with the flocks and was clearly the favorite of their father. Did not their father just give him the coat of many colors? And had he not recently implied by the telling of his dream that he one day expected to rule over them? These thoughts must have been often on their minds and they must have discussed this often among themselves because when the opportunity presented itself, they were prepared to take whatever action was necessary to rid themselves of the person of their brother. They planned a way in which they could take his life without actually slaying him. We read in the Word that after they put him in the pit to die, their hearts were so callous that they immediately sat down to eat.

It was not God's will that Joseph die in this manner however, and He provided them at this instant with a further means of salving their consciences and of making a monetary gain at the same time.

How strange are the ways of God. Who, at this time, could have imagined that this unlikely young man would one day be second in command only to Pharaoh? Truly all things work together for good to them that love God. (Romans 8:28) Who of us would not take this place of importance to save the very lives of God's children? But we should also ask ourselves, who of us would willingly go through the unpleasant experiences which Joseph had to experience before he was raised to this position?

CENTRAL TRUTH: God sometimes uses adversity to accomplish His purposes.

GOLDEN TEXT: *YE THOUGHT EVIL AGAINST ME, BUT GOD MEANT IT UNTO GOOD.*

Genesis 50:20

How humbling it is to consider the greatness of the ways of God. Truly His ways are as far above ours as heaven is above earth. (Isaiah 55:8-9) To think that God can and does control the forces of nature for the benefit of sinful man is in itself a wonderful thing, but to realize that not only does He control these forces, but that all things which occur in heaven occur as a result of His previous agreement. Since God knows all things, even before they happen, and since He is more powerful than any other force, He can at His will stop or change any action which anyone or anything starts. It is this truth which turned the evil actions of Joseph's brothers to the ultimate good of His chosen people.

It is this great truth which prompted Paul, through the Holy Spirit, to write "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.*" (Romans 8:28) We can indeed rest and take comfort in this knowledge.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 19 – 25

M. *Joseph Dreams Prophetically. Genesis 37:1-11

T. *The Brothers Plot Against Joseph. Genesis 37:12-22

W. *Joseph Sold Into Egypt. Genesis 37:23-36; Psalms 105:17-19

T. Saul Plots Against David. 1 Samuel 18:6-11

F. Jeremiah Thrown into the Pit. Jeremiah 38:6-13

S. Christ Sold by Judas. Matthew 26:14-16

S. Christ Rejected by His Brethren. John 7:1-5