

BACK TO BETHEL

Genesis 35:1; 28:10-22

Introduction: There's places we'd like to go back and visit sometimes, places we remember growing up in, places we had an unusual experience, places we had a lot of fun, places we had a tragic thing happen, etc. Going back to those places bring back memories and we try to relive those original experiences. Our man Jacob had a scary, yet wonderful experience at a place he called "Bethel" and he had reason to go back again.

I. JACOB WENT BACK TO BETHEL

- God commanded Jacob to go back to Bethel.
- Jacob had drifted away from God.
- Jacob was in trouble.
- Jacob had not kept his word to God.
- God had kept His Word to Jacob.
- If Jacob had only gone back to Bethel sooner, maybe.....

II. JACOB FIRST MET GOD AT BETHEL

- Jacob had left home, alone, afraid, lost, etc.
- God met Jacob at night there at Bethel in a "dream."
- God made promises to Jacob.
- Jacob made promises back to God.
- Jacob never forgot that night completely.
- His life was changed forever after that night.

III. SO, NOW BACK TO BETHEL YEARS LATER

- Jacob had cleaned up himself and his family.
- Jacob had put away his false gods, the idols.
- Jacob came back to God in repentance.
- God renewed His covenant with Jacob

- Jacob was different after this encounter with God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Christian has a Bethel, the place where he/she found Jesus Christ.
2. Sooner or later every Christian needs to go back to his/her "Bethel."
3. Do you need to go back to your "Bethel?"
 - Have you also, like Jacob, failed to keep your promises to God?
 - Are you in need of a refreshing? A fresh, new breath from God?
4. God has called you many times before to go back to your "Bethel."
 - Will you hear Him this time?
5. Some have never found a "Bethel."
 - This place, right here, can be your "Bethel" today.
 - Your life can be changed.