

Genesis 35

Days of Blessing and Sorrow

Normalcy ...

I. The Blessings of God

- A. Jacob in Bethel
- B. Saints in the Household of God

II. Trials of Life

- A. Mourning & Grief
- B. Solace & Healing

III. Hope Ahead

- A. Israel's View
- B. Christian's Perspective

... this side of glory.

Children, Listen ...

1. Does it seem like Jacob is trying to do what is right?
2. What are some of the things he is doing to obey God?
3. Does his obedience mean that nothing will go wrong for him?
4. Will Christians face sorrows in life?
5. When will all sorrow and sadness be gone?

Sorry, No Exemptions

Jacob/Israel seems to finally be where he needs to be and doing what he is supposed to be doing. We might go so far to say that at this point in his life as recorded in Scripture, he is closer to the Lord as he has ever been. But that does not mean that life is easy or even easier. There are rich blessings and promise ahead for Jacob, but according to this chapter, he still faces the sorrows of death and disgrace in his family. This must have caused him deep grief. But the patriarch need not despair – he knows now, better than ever that he can trust the Lord and turn to him. Jacob only had shadows, types and signs of just how near God would be to us in our trials – we have the fullness in Christ. We may be walking near and well with the Lord, but we are not exempt from the trials of life any more than Jacob was, but we know where to turn. What a great comfort it is to know that the Lord of glory can sympathize with our weaknesses and burdens and that intercedes for us accordingly. We are not spared the sorrows of life, but we are blessed beyond measure as we belong to the God of all comfort through our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ.