

Handout: Genesis Lesson 15

Significant place names:

1. Shechem is 40 miles north of Jerusalem. Jacob named the altar near Shechem: “El-elohe-israel,” which literally means “God (singular) - the God (plural; from *elohim*) - of Israel.” The name Jacob gave the altar honoring God distinguished his God from the Canaanite deity “El.” “El-Beth-el”: “God (singular) - the place/house of - God (singular).”
2. Bethel is 14 miles north of Jerusalem. Deborah’s grave site below Bethel hill was named “Allonbacuth”: “the oak of tears/weeping” (Gen 35:8). The altar at Bethel was renamed El-Bethel, meaning “God-place/house-of God.”

The Significance of the second Bethel blessing in Genesis 35:11-12: *God said to him, ‘I am El Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed an assembly of nations, will descend from you, and kings will issue from your loins. The country which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I now give to you; and this country I shall give to your descendants (seed) after you.’* (Also see Gen 1:28; 17:4, 16; 2 Sam 7:12-16; Mt 25:32; 28:19-20; Acts 17:26; Rom 4:17-18; Rev 2:26).

1. The first part of the blessing, “be fruitful and multiply” recalled the first blessing given to Adam and Eve in the Creation event and shows that God is working through Jacob to continue to bring that first blessing to all mankind.
2. The promise that Abraham was to be the “father of many nations” and the promise that “kings” were to come from Abraham’s line made to Sarah (Gen 17:16) is repeated again to Jacob in connection with the “promised seed” and a “community/assembly of nations.” These are promised blessings that are fulfilled in King David (kingship over Israel) and in Jesus Christ.
3. The Abrahamic promise of the land, including the rule of nations, is renewed with Jacob and his descendants. It is a promise that will be fulfilled in the Redeemer-Messiah and the Universal Church.

The title “El-Shaddai” is found seven times in the Pentateuch in connection with the Patriarchs (Gen 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; 49:25; Ex 6:3) and twice as “Shaddai” (Num 24:4, 16).

Esau had five sons by three of his wives:

1. Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite bore Eliphaz
2. Basemath daughter of Ishmael and sister of Ishmael’s firstborn son Nebaioth bore Reuel.
3. Oholibamah* the daughter of the Horite Anah and the granddaughter of Zibeon the third son of Seir (see Gen 36:2, 14, 21) bore Jeush, Jalam and Korah.

*Esau may have used his marriage to Oholibamah to give him a claim to the lands of the Horites (Hivites) in Seir; the region was named for his wife’s great-grandfather Gen 36:6-8).