

GOING UP TO BETHEL TO WORSHIP

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Genesis 31:11

11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.

12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.

13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

Genesis 35:2-3,5-6,15

2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

3 And let us arise, and go up to **Bethel**; and **I will make there an altar unto God**, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, **Bethel**, he and all the people that were with him.

7 And he built there an altar, and called the place **El-beth-el**: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.

15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, **Bethel**.

WHAT BETHEL IS AND WHAT IT MEANS ?

Meaning: House of El; House of God

Bethel, a place in Central Israel, about 10 miles north of Jerusalem, at the head of the pass of Michmash and Ai. Bethel was originally the royal Canaanite city of Luz (Genesis 28:19).

The name Bethel was at first apparently given to the sanctuary in the neighborhood of Luz, and was not given to the city itself till after its conquest by Ephraim. When Abram entered Canaan, he formed his 2nd encampment between Bethel and Hai (Genesis 12:8); and on his return from Egypt he came back to it, and again “called upon the name of the Lord” (13:4).

Here Jacob, on his way from Beersheba to Haran, had a vision of the angels of God ascending and descending on the ladder whose top reached unto heaven (28:10, 19); and on his return he again visited this place, “where God talked with him” (35:1-15), and there he “built an altar, and called the place El-beth-el”. To this second occasion of God’s speaking with Jacob at Bethel, Hosea (12:4-5) makes reference. In troublous times the people went to Bethel to ask counsel of God (Judges 20:18, 31; 21:2).

Bethel

And that **Bethel** signifies the knowledges of celestial things, may be seen from other passages in the Word where Bethel is named; as in the next chapter, where it is said that Abram went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent was in the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, unto the place of the altar which he made there (*Gen. 13:3, 4*) where **on his journeys from the south to Bethel**, signifies progression into the light of knowledges, on which account it is not here said that Bethel was on the west and Ai on the east. When Jacob saw the ladder, he said:

(Gen. 28:17, 19); This is none other but the House of God, and this is the gate of heaven; and he called the name of that place Bethel

where the knowledge of celestial things is in like manner signified by **Bethel**; for man is a Bethel, that is a House of God, and also a gate of heaven, when he is in the celestial things of knowledges. When a man is being regenerated, he is introduced by means of the knowledges of spiritual and celestial things; but when he has been regenerated, he has then been introduced, and is in the celestial and spiritual things of the knowledges.

(Gen. 35:1, 6, 7) God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; make there an altar to God who appeared unto thee

Afterwards: where in like manner **Bethel** signifies knowledge

63-0421 - "Victory Day"

203 That’s what the devil is so after us about. See? That’s what the devil is so after the Bride, the Church, so, for now, it’s getting close to V-day. That’s right. She is getting real close. That’s when the enemy in his worst, to reroute. The Bible said, “Woe unto the earth, because the devil is like a roaring lion, in the last days, going around, devouring what he will,” you see. “Woe unto them”; the persecutions and things would take place. Hold right to It. Don’t you move, right or left. Stay right with that Word. God said so. That does it.

204 Jacob, longing in his heart, everything seemed to be wrong. He wanted to go back home. The Holy Spirit was leading him. He had made a promise to God. He had to go to **Bethel**, to pay these tithings and so. And here, on his road back, he finds out that Esau, his enemy brother, was—was

just across the river, waiting for him, with an army. So, Jacob was a coward, yet he had the blessings of God. God had promised to bless him. He had the birthright. Amen.

205 What a type of the Church today, with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the promise of God's Word to vindicate it, because you become part of that Word, the birthright.

206 And Jacob had the birthright. Amen. He had...His brother didn't care about it. And he had the birthright, because his brother sold it to him for a mess of pottage. And so, has the church world today sold their birthright.

63-0421 - "Victory Day"

208 What the church needs to do, is to do like Jacob, pray till you get a V-day. And, right, **Jacob had a wrestling party. He wrestled all night long, with the Lord**, but he said, "I'm just not going to let You go until I get this victory." And then about daylight, one morning, he had a V-day. He didn't walk the same, anymore. But, on this side, he was a great big, strong, fearful church member. But, on the other side, he was a little, limping priest, or prince, rather; a little, limping prince, with enough courage to fight the whole army.

Esau said, "I'll furnish you an army."

He said, "I don't need it." He had had a V-day.

63-0421 - "Victory Day"

210 Oh, how I remember the wrestle, when—when I had to die to myself. But there come a V-day, when I got the victory, then God's Word become right. The Baptist church, to me, was no more than any other organization. That's right. I had a V-day. God's Word is right.

QUESTION AND ANSWER 54-0103E

18. Will you please tell us how our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ expects us to come into the house of our Lord to worship?

54-0103E - "Questions And Answers #2"

111 All right, that's a good one. That's a very essential one to any church. God expects you to come to the church house...Now, that's just a question, just a right-out question. It isn't a Scriptural; it...yet it is. Wait, I'll tell you what He said. The first place, if you want Scripture, the people are supposed to come to the house of God for one purpose, that is to worship, to sing songs, and to worship God. That's the way God expects us. He doesn't expect us to come into the house of God to talk about our...or something else, or talk about one another, or talk about what we got to do through the week; He expects us to come to worship Him. It's a house of worship. "And everything should be done decently and in order," said Paul in the Bible. Everything's supposed to be right. There's supposed to be message.

112 The first thing I would say, according to the rules of the Church in the Old Testament, or, the New Testament rather, at the first place, that people entered into the church of—of God in a Spirit

of worship. And they walked in, hymns were sang. And maybe the preacher would speak, for he was a prophet of the church. (A New Testament prophet is a preacher; we know that: "The testimony of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of prophecy," said Revelation.)

54-0809E - "The Manifestation Of Thy Resurrection To The People Of This Day"

31 And while they're coming, I'd like to have your attention, please. I want you to be very reverent. The service is not an arena now; it's a house of worship. And may the Angels of God descend from heaven and take their places at every bench tonight, at every place, and abundantly bless every person here that's in Divine Presence.

55-1111 - "Where I Think Pentecost Failed"

51 We should come into church with a heart full of reverence, not a... Church is not a social gathering, of some sort of arena, or somewhere to talk about what you done through the day. It's a place of worship. And we've made it a house of havoc. Whew. That'll almost give colic, but it'll do you good. All right. God's got a remedy for that colic. Did you know that?

52 Moses led two million people through the wilderness. And he led them for the space of forty years, and when he come out on the other side, there wasn't a feeble one among them.

Wouldn't you doctors here tonight, or some of you, like to know what Doctor Moses had, prescription? What did he give those people? How many babies was born each night? How many old people and so forth? How many lame and cripple? And how many colics, and everything else, did he get through the night? And Doctor Moses took care of every bit of it.

Would you like to look at his medicine bag and find out what kind of prescription he give? Would you like to know what it is? Let's see what it was. Here it is: "I'm the Lord that healeth all thy diseases." Amen. That's the only remedy he had, and it worked for two million people.

As long as they were obedient, as long as they wasn't grumbling and fussing, as long as they were obedient and walked humbly before God, God went before them and led them by the hand, and packed them on eagles wings. But the minute they got out of order, God separated Hisself from them.

59-1108 - "Possessing The Enemy's Gates"

34 Stand alone. Walk out there and say, "Though He slay me, yet I'll trust Him." That's the Seed of Abraham. That's the One that gives the promise. "No matter what the rest of them says, the rest of them do; for me and my house, we'll serve God." Said, "If the rest of them says, 'There's nothing to the experience. It's a bunch of excitement'; for me and my house, we'll serve God."

And I like to take up with Paul right here, and say, "In the way that's called 'heresy' so worship I the God of our fathers."

"Though they be tattlers come in the church, though they be twisters, and though they be all kinds of false prophets and everything come into the church amongst the people, and in the

neighborhood and everything; but for me and for my house, we'll serve the Lord. Though all of them quit coming, and though the church gets cold, indifferent; me and my house, we'll serve the Lord. Though if someone was prayed for and didn't get well; that has nothing to do with it; for me and my house, we serve the Lord." The testings and the trials.

35 Men are not infallible, but God is. Man, you get your mind on a man, he'll make a mistake. Maybe not willfully, but he'll do it. God permits him to do it so that He can shake your faith away from man. Our faith is not in the wisdom of man, but in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's where the true Seed of Abraham rests their promise. Because, **they can only be the Seed of Abraham when they receive the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit they're not the Seed of Abraham.** That same faith that was in Abraham comes into the believer. No matter what takes place or how contrary, the believer marches right on.

61-0125 - "Why?"

41 I wonder today, why does men want to smoke cigarettes? Why does people want to stay home on Wednesday night and watch a television program instead of going to prayer meeting? Why is it we want to do... Because there's no joy in the house of the Lord? What makes a person want to—to drink, and run around, and act like that? Is it because we don't have any God? Is it because there's no joy in the house of the Lord anymore? Is it because the Holy Spirit isn't ready to bless all of us? Is there—is there anything wrong with it?

But because that we do it, that's the reason we're cursed. That's the reason God's put this thing upon the church, this cold and dampness. We're going to other places for pleasure, instead of coming to the house of the Lord for pleasure. The house of the Lord is the joy of the Lord. The joy of the Lord is the joy of His people. He wants you to come to church, and worship Him, and be happy, and satisfied, giving praise, and honor, and glory, and wisdom, and might, and power to God. He wants you to do that.