

New birth from Jacob to Israel!

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Father we are here in Your presence, even in our tiredness You can still speak. For Your Scripture says, “Your Word is healing and strength for the whole man’s body.” Even this evening renew us through Your Word. We just surrender before Thee. Let there be a constant breaking down in our minds of lies and false assumptions of this world. Renew our mind with Your Word which alone is true. Speak this evening once again. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

We continue tearing down and building up. That’s the purpose of the Word of God. In *2 Corinthians* we’ll just look, continue a little from what we looked in the morning, but *2 Corinthians 10*. We won’t start from where we finished in the morning because the others won’t know, we will look at it.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

The parallel we see is in the Old Testament in *Jeremiah 1:10*...

Jeremiah 1:10

¹⁰See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.”

The strength of any structure is dependent upon the foundation. Foundation will decide how the building will go, how the building will last. The time of testing, the time of trials, it’s all connected with the foundation. So even when Jesus talked about the two houses he mentioned about the foundation. Much of the issues we face in life are not actually with the problems, it’s because the foundations were wrong. Like I said in the morning, God doesn’t do a work like this. This is one old foundation on which there is a new building. He never does anything like that. He destroys first the old foundation itself. The work of God is from the foundation. If you want to live like Jacob, that’s our choice. Jacob is the old man trying to receive the blessings of the new man. You will be miserable all your life because Jacob has no destiny with God. The destiny is for Israel and until Israel is birthed, Jacob is going to be miserable. The old man is Jacob. The old man when he reads the Word and hears the Word, gets excited. All he can see is blessings and promises. But what happens? Even when he receives the blessing, like last Sunday’s message when he receives the blessing, he wakes up in the morning it is Leah. It doesn’t matter how many children you have, you are still miserable. It simply doesn’t work; it doesn’t work for the child of God. That is why God says there has to be a constant tearing down and pulling. You have to read *2 Corinthians 10:3-6* in ‘The Message version’.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

³The world is unprincipled. It’s dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn’t fight fair. ⁴But we don’t live or fight our battles that way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren’t for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. (Getting the picture? Before people received the message, this was the cry of Peter to the generation on his first message, save yourself from this corrupt culture) ⁵We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. ⁶Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.

Constantly this is the problem. Turn with me to the book of *Isaiah 2:2*,

Isaiah 2:2-8

²Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.

In the morning I said there are some mountains we have to climb over, some mountains we have to go around, some mountains you have to command 'Be removed in Jesus' name!', but there are certain mountains which are our inheritance, our possession. So the Scripture will say in the Book of Hebrews, "One of those mountains is Zion." That's our inheritance. We have to climb that mountain. We have to possess that mountain. Then like Caleb he will say, when he's 85 years old, "Give me that mountain which Moses promised 45 years ago". That's the purpose of your life. Once you possess that mountain he will get Hebron. That is the mountain he gets, and Hebron means 'joined'. When you have fulfilled the purpose of God in your life you are joined with God. That's what Paul says, "*We are co-labourers with Christ*". Scripture says we have to climb 'this mountain of the Lord shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills'. This is God's truth and all nations shall flow to it. Verse 3 says,

³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (But look at the in diction in verse 5 onwards) **⁵ O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. ⁶ For You have forsaken Your people, the house of Jacob, (why?) because they are filled with eastern ways;** (When Isaiah is writing this, there is no western influence in Israel. Today God would say you are full of western ways) **they are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they are pleased with the children of foreigners. ⁷ Their land is also full of silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is also full of horses, and there is no end to their chariots.** (Are you getting the picture? There is incredible prosperity, incredible prosperity. But) **⁸ Their land is also full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.**

That is Jacob. Jacob has a dream. Doesn't matter how many visions he sees from heaven, he has his own dream. And he's willing to cut any deal with God as long as He keeps blessing that dream. Are we getting the picture? See if you're fulfilling the purpose of God, then there is incredible peace. But if you are born into the Kingdom and try to fulfill your dream, then your land is also full of idols and you're actually worshipping the work of your hands, which your fingers have made. And God says, "Check those foundations on which our life is built". There are so many ideas on which we are trying to build the Kingdom of God and every one of these ideas, one by one, has to be tackled. So even when you hear the Word of God each time there has to be surrender. You have to consecrate your mind to say, "Lord speak to me what You want me to hear, help me to understand the way You want me to understand". Because the same Word of God we may hear exactly the way we want to hear. Understand the way we want to understand. There is the Word of God and there is the interpretation of the Word of God. Now the Word of God is being spoken and the Spirit of God is there, but the interpreter has become maim. It's not the Spirit of God. I have become the arbiter of truth. When I become the arbiter of truth, the Holy Spirit is not given power to bring conviction because I have decided what is true. That's the issue, that's the issue with Israel. And while they are prospering, why are they prospering? They are God's people, they are the house of Jacob and they are prospering though they are called 'house of Jacob' and their God is called 'God of Israel', their ways are eastern ways. Their ways are not God's ways. But whenever they hear the Word of God, you know what? Inside we will say, "I don't agree". And now because we are very spiritual, we will say "I don't agree with Pastor James or Pastor John". We will not say "I don't agree with God", because we are very smart. "I don't agree", but we don't say, "I don't agree with the Word of God". So you know what? The conviction, what the Word of God brought, we turned it around and said "That's man speaking, that's not God speaking". The question is, if it is man speaking then why are you so miserable? Because James or John do not have the power to bring conviction unless we scold you. It doesn't have power to bring conviction. Are you getting the picture? We have to allow the Holy Spirit to filter everything. Because salvation in the New Covenant is a new birth. What is it called? A new birth. What does it mean? It is not an improvement on the old person, it is a new birth. So the new birth itself is the foundation. Look at how God says. In *1 Corinthians 3:10-13*,

1 Corinthians 3:10-13

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

Now what is this actually, in the context of what we're looking, we're looking at foundations. What does he say?

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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Now he's not talking about the structure, he's talking about the foundation. So God says from the foundation He will pull down, He will tear down and start from the foundation and the foundation will be Christ. And Scripture says,

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation

A set of materials are given and then it talks about a final testing. Many tests will be there during life, even if you come through that test it doesn't matter, there is an incredible final exam. That is by fire. And in those materials mentioned, 3 can come through fire, the rest cannot. And Scripture talks about God's Word. Scripture says it's refined in the fire 7 times more. Are you getting the picture? The foundation is Christ and everything that is built on it has to stand the test of God's Word. Therefore it is here. That's why Scripture says tear down and pull down these warped philosophies in your mind. Are you getting the picture?

Morning I was talking about how we fight powers, principalities and rulers. Scripture uses this term, terms like principality and terms like rulers. What is Jeremiah told to do? Pull down kingdoms and nations. I said there are 4 factors here. There is a king, there is a kingdom; that is the land, king, land, people and an ideology or an idea on which the land which the kingdom is built. Every country is not built on the same ideology that is why nations are different. So there is a ruler, there is a realm, there are a people and there is an idea. And do you know it's all there? There are kingdoms here, there are rulers here and there are ideas there. And those ideas have power. And those ideas won't come in easily because there are rulers behind those ideas. That is why God has an issue with idolatry. The problem is not with the 'vignam', behind the idol there is a power, behind that power there is an ideology. Ultimately that ideology will shape you what you become. So God when He says, "The man who worships an idol will ultimately become like an idol", He's not talking about becoming like a statue. No, he becomes like the power and the idea behind it. So God is coming into the business of breaking that idolatry in our mind. We cannot, that's why Scripture says we are not fighting flesh and blood; we are fighting powers and rulers and principalities. The question is, "Lord how do I fight them? I don't see them". God says, "If you think clearly through My Word, the ideas are in your head. Those ideas are there in your mind". He says, "Fight those ideas. Bring every thought to the captivity of Christ Jesus". That is the fight we are fighting, that is the struggle we are facing. And the struggle we face is because we are caught as few people in a corrupt culture. Culture is corrupt because of the ideas that are floating. So God says, "My answer to this, is the new birth. Not just a few exchange of ideas." He says "It doesn't work. I will start from the beginning; it's a new birth, a new life, a new set of ideas, a new set of desires and a new destiny. Everything is new."

Or, you can be like Jacob. Run with the old life and cut a deal with God to see that He blesses your old life. In Acts 2:37-42, this is the apostle preaching.

Acts 2:37-38

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

So Peter says two things. He says, "Repent." Repentance is first accepting that your entire thought pattern which framed your life was wrong. Repent. And then he says, "Be baptised." What is that? Die to the old life, not 'pick some of the good things from your old life.' He says, "Die to the old life." What shall you receive? You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit do? He births in a new life. Look at *verse 40*,

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

What does Scripture say? Every Word is important. 'Then those who...' What? '...gladly received.' It's not when you hear about repentance and say, "Oh, what can I do, anyways? I don't want to go to hell." Scripture says they were happy to leave that old life. Those who gladly received His Word were baptised. Are you getting the picture? In *verse 42*, the new person needs new teachings.

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (The teaching has changed. It is not teaching the new person old things. It's teaching the new person new things) **and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

What has happened? It's a new set of relationships. There is a new set of teachings for the new man and a new set of fellowship for the new man. I tell the Church that this is the order. If you go to college, especially for science, the lecturer will teach you. Then you go and practice it in the lab, whether this works or not. You are taught the apostle's doctrine. It will be practiced in fellowship, whether it works or not. *'Speak the truth in love. Forgive one another.'* You will know when you are close fellowship whether these things work or not. That is the order. You look at the order in the Bible. *'...steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine.'* Continuously renewing their mind. What they are learning is steadfastly practiced in fellowship everyday. It's not that you come to Church once in a while when you feel like. Spiritually, the Church itself becomes your family. Are you getting the picture?

Now everybody is sitting there very nice, looking very good. When you go back home, you actually become yourself and you are accepted as yourself there. If you try anything else, they will tell you, "What's wrong with you?" Are you getting the picture? God says, "The new life is practiced in this new fellowship." Yes, you will hurt each other. Yes, you will sin against one another and therefore, the third thing is put there. Judge yourself before you break bread. That's why Paul's problem with the Corinthian Church in Corinthians 11 is, "Don't you have a house to go and eat?" Because, he says, you are breaking bread without judging each other, judging the Body of Christ. Therefore, he says, many of you are weak, many of you are sick and many of you have died. Because he says everything here is life. This is not theory. Doctrine, practiced in fellowship, judgment of one another, judgment of the self through the breaking of bread and when that happens consistently, you have a body that is one. Then your prayer starts having power. Why? Because there is unity that has been forged through doctrine, through fellowship and through judgment. And then what does *verse 43* say? What does it say?

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

They didn't have to go to any Benny Hinn meeting or meeting for a miracle. It was happening in the Church. Because the Church itself the vessel of the supernatural work of God because the body of Christ had actually become the body of Christ. But where was the key? The key was this. They had to change the way they thought and that is the apostle's doctrine and they had to practice what they thought and when they sinned against what they had heard they had to judge themselves. Understand what the new life means? Are you getting the picture? That's why when we read Jacob and Rachel and all that, we think it's like the Biblical Romeo and Juliet and we get so excited. Are you getting the picture? How did we end here? Turn with me to *Genesis 29:31*.

Genesis 29:31

³¹ When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

One simple line. What is the womb a symbol of? It's a symbol of birth. Life begins in the womb. In human, physical terms, the womb is connected with fruitfulness. The womb can be fruitful or barren. The foundation of a building will decide how the rest of the building goes. It does make a whole lot of difference. How was the womb that conceived you? A child conceived through the rape, the foundation is violence. A child conceived when the parents are fighting and there is anger and bitterness in the mother and the father, the foundation is rejection. God can open Leah's womb but Jacob has to change his mind. Otherwise, every child born of that womb will be facing rejection right from the beginning and will become rebels. So it is not just casually joking. When I talk to each one of you married girls who are pregnant, I ask you, "Are you happy? Is your husband treating you well?" Because the womb is the foundation. You go check almost any child who is very happy, very cheerful and you will see, when that child was conceived and when the child was in the womb, the parents were very happy. Yet, when some children are conceived, the mother is very upset. "Oh, this child is a hindrance because now I have to leave my job." If you think the child doesn't get those ideas, you're mistaken. You don't understand Scripture.

Reuben was conceived was his mother was not loved by the father. He is rejected right in the womb. So are all the children of Leah. Are you getting the picture? That is why we tell them, "Don't even say those nasty words." That is why there repentance is required. Why did the ten sons of Jacob turn the way they turned? Because their mothers were rejected by the father. He had eyes and heart only for Rachel. Are you getting the picture? The Bible is full of facts. Why is Ishmael a man of violence? Because once he was conceived in the womb, there was absolute strife in the home and he and his mother, while he was in the womb, was thrown out of the house. Ishmael is already reacting to the anger of his mother and that anger is passed on when he is 13 years old and he is violent with Isaac. You will see if you go by the womb, that's the

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foundation, right? Everyone of us humans have messed up somewhere up the line. Everyone of us somewhere up the line is messed up.

So what is God's solution? God's solution is not religion. His solution is a new birth. He says, "When you come to Me, everyone of you will be born again in Me." Everyone who is born again of God is loved and wanted. Nobody is rejected. Nobody is unwanted. Look at these three parables. I'll give you the verses. *Luke 15:5, 9 and 23*. First, this is the one sheep that was lost, right?

Luke 15:5

⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

He's rejoicing. Verse 9...

⁹ And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'

Do you think you're going to throw a party for a lost coin? No, this is God talking about children who are born of Him. Verse 23...

²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;

What is common about these three parables is that everywhere God says, "Let's have a party." Why? Verse 10 will tell us.

¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

There is more joy in heaven than there is outside any labour room on earth. Understand God's solution. God's solution is not more advice. New things. God's answer to all of humanity's problem is He says, "I will birth you anew." A new birth. In *Jeremiah 1:4-5*, this is how He will put it in Old Testament terms.

Jeremiah 1:4-5

⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

This is true of everyone sitting here born of God. He says, "Before you were born, I had set you apart. I had ordained you to be My voice, My light, My salt to this generation." There is a new birth, there is a new family, there is a new life, there are new desires, there's an absolutely new destiny and, along with that, there are new duties. He said, "You can either be Jacob or you can be Israel." At River Jabok, what happens is a type of the new birth. In *Genesis 32:28*, He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel."

Genesis 32:28

²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

He says, "You have come through your labour pains." He says, "It's a new man. You will no longer be Jacob. You will be Israel." The new, born-again person in us is not Jacob. It is Israel. Israel's destiny is different from Jacob's. This is not the same as Jacob. All the sons are born to Jacob except Benjamin. Benjamin is born to Israel. All the others are born to Jacob and Rachel will die at childbirth. Why? Because Rachel will become a stumbling block to Israel because Rachel is in love with Jacob. All the things you're old man is yoked to has to die before you can enter into your new destiny.

Genesis 35:17-18

¹⁷ Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also." ¹⁸ And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

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What is happening here? The mother says, “You are son of my sorrow.” The father says, “No, you’re the son of my right hand.” Look at *verse 19* onwards,

¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day.

Wait there, okay? Rachel gave birth, tried to change the destiny of the son. Israel intervenes and changes his destiny. ***Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day.***

Jacob buried Rachel but Israel moved on. Otherwise, Israel will never fulfill his destiny. It doesn’t matter how much he loves Rachel. You study, after Jabok, the play of words: Jacob and Israel, Jacob and Israel and so on. Israel has to keep on moving on and as he moves on, Israel will get stronger and stronger and Jacob will get weaker and weaker. Every time Israel will become Jacob, it is connected with the Rachel of his past. Rachel can be dead. Rachel can be buried, there’s a pillar also above but it has to die inside also. So when Rachel’s son Joseph, he thinks, is dead, he’s heart-broken. He says, “I don’t want to live anymore.” Do you think if it was Simeon or Levi he would have reacted that way? Then suddenly, Israel is gone and Jacob has come. That is what happens to most people. Somewhere along the way, the devil will come and bring something of Rachel back. In all our lives. I’m not talking about a girl or a man here. Something of the past is there that we were very attached to in the old man. And when it is come, we forget who we are. And before we know, we are after Rachel again, anything associated with Rachel. We’ve forgotten what our destiny as Israel is. He will send every son to Egypt for grain but he will not send Benjamin. Why? Benjamin is Rachel’s.

So Joseph will not give them anything until Joseph, standing in the place of Christ, says, “I want Benjamin here.” Do you see how God deals with us? He says, “Until everything of that idol in your past is broken and destroyed, you cannot move forward.” Jacob, until everything of Israel has been surrendered on the altar, you will not see the face of Joseph. Joseph is a type of Christ. You need to realise that Joseph is governor of Egypt. If he wants, he can get a chariot and come straight and see his father. Why doesn’t he come? Because God doesn’t allow because God is dealing with Jacob to make him completely into Israel. Are you getting the picture? That’s how God works, until everything of Jacob is destroyed in our lives.

Then, when we remember, all we can remember is the mighty God of Jacob who brought us out. Turn with me to *Genesis 49:1-2*...

Genesis 49:1-2

¹ And Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

Are you getting the picture? Let me tell you. This is what we say when we pray. We say, “Father, even as I speak, I pray, behind the voice of man, they will hear the voice of Your Spirit.” Right?

² “Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father.

The one who is speaking to you is Jacob. But Jacob has no power to change your destiny. Israel does. “So you may think you’re seeing Jacob because you have known me as Jacob from the beginning but you don’t know what happened at Jabok. You don’t know what has happened at Jabok.” So he says, “Listen to the voice of Israel, your father.” Come to *verse 24*. Now he’s talking about Joseph.

²⁴ But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

There are two things he mentions here. He says, “Your God is a mighty God of Jacob.” In spite of all the terrible things Jacob did, he’s a mighty God who rescued him. But the shepherd and the foundation stone is the God of Israel. Your identity begins from there, not as Jacob, as Israel. So remember: there are these two people in us, Jacob, who is in love with Rachel, but after the marriage, when you wake up and you see Leah, that is your wife. That is covenant. You know what Scripture says? Jacob will always love Rachel but when Israel dies, he’s buried with Leah. He’s not buried with Rachel. That’s what we

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say: she did not get Jacob when she was living but she got Israel when she died. So in life, they were separate. In death, they were together. God is a God of covenant. So where did all these issues go wrong? You know where? Turn with me to *Genesis 26:5*. What does Scripture say?

Genesis 26:5

⁵ ***because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.***

Did he know everything? The Law will be given to the nation of Israel 500 years later but Abraham already knew the Law. Did he teach his son? Yes, he taught his son. Did his son go to the well and fall on some girl and say, "I love you?" No, he waited according the Law of God established through his father and said, "You can pick the girl for me." Was his wife barren? Did he, according to the ideas of the culture, pick a concubine? No, he didn't. Because the Law, the statutes had already been put inside him by his father. He went by it and waited on God. So that is why the life of Isaac is different. The only place where he stumbles is like his father, because of fear, will say, "Rebecca is my sister." Did he have strife? Did he fight with his enemies? No, he didn't. Even his enemies came and made peace with him. Because he did not go by the ideas of the power of kings around. He established himself in the laws his father and put in him. He went wrong only when it came to his children. There he didn't pass it on. That is why we say in Scripture, this faith has to be passed on from generation to generation. Faith is only one generation away from dying. Always. If we don't pass it on to the next generation, it dies with us. Abraham passed it onto Isaac. Isaac failed to pass it on to his children. So Scripture will say during the time of Joshua, Israel had peace all around but after that, you will see they have to fight their enemies and they will lose. That is the key of the apostle's doctrine. Every generation has to be brought back to the foundation of Christ and the apostle's teaching so that the faith they hold is true. What has gone wrong with the Church? Everybody talks about Christ as the foundation but after that, it is not the apostle's doctrine. Much of it is heresy. Christ won't sanction it. So life goes out of the Church. When Church continues as an institution but because there is no life in the doctrine, there is no life of God in the fellowship and there is no life of God in the breaking of bread and therefore, there is no power of God in prayer because it is absolutely a new life. So God will say, "*Jacob I loved. Esau I hated.*" So the question is what are we? Are we Jacob or Israel? *Galatians 6:16*...

Galatians 6:16

¹⁶ ***And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.***

Where is this? It's in the New Covenant. Do you know what the Church is called? The Church is not called the Jacob of God. It's called the Israel of God. We are called the Israel of God and His mercy and peace are only given to the Israel of God because Israel will walk according to these rules. Jacob will try to use God to prosper. Israel will try to walk according to the ways of God. So God says, "You can decide. What are you? Are you Jacob or are you Israel?" The destiny of God is connected with Israel and not with Jacob. Amen? Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer

Father, this evening, even as we are here, O Lord, through the new birth, O Father, you have changed the course of our life. You have changed everything for us. Our destiny is yoked with yours now. It is no longer with Jacob and in the world. It is with Israel and with God because we are the Israel of God and I pray, Father, every time as your children, we study Your Word, we hear Your Word, we meditate upon Your Word, there would be strongholds that are broken, ideas received from the culture of the world, the ways of the world, be consistently broken and replaced with the Truth. Because Israel is one who is victorious with God and with man. That is the destiny of Israel, to be an overcomer. It is not going to happen unless we replace our thoughts and bury the Rachels in our lives and move on as Israel. You may be the mighty God of Jacob but you are the Rock of Israel. You are the Shepherd of Israel. Jacob experienced You only to get him out of trouble but Israel experience You as his Shepherd, the One who led him, spoke to him and made Your ways known to him. Speak to us as a Shepherd, O Lord. You alone are our rock. Thank You, Father. As we go into another week, we just thank You. We praise You. We worship You. We glorify You. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. Amen and Amen.