



Study Guide: Genesis – Chapter 35

Verses 16–21: Rachel goes into labor while traveling and gives birth to Benjamin but dies in childbirth. Jacob names the child Ben-oni, meaning “son of my sorrow,” though he later calls him Benjamin, “son of the right hand.”

Verses 22–26: The chapter concludes with the birth of other children to Jacob and the death of Isaac. The genealogy of Esau’s descendants is briefly recorded, providing a contrast to Jacob’s line and emphasizing the unfolding of God’s plan through Israel.

Key Themes

One key theme is spiritual renewal and obedience, as Jacob and his household remove foreign gods and purify themselves in response to God’s command. Another theme is divine faithfulness, highlighted by God’s reaffirmation of the covenant and Jacob’s new identity as Israel. The chapter also explores the cost of covenantal commitment, seen in Rachel’s death, symbolizing both blessing and sorrow. Finally, the theme of God’s providential guidance is evident as God accompanies Jacob, protecting and blessing him throughout the journey.

Cross-References

The command to return to Bethel echoes Genesis 28:10-22, where Jacob first encountered God and received the promise. This connection emphasizes the importance of Bethel as a sacred place of covenantal encounter. The removal of foreign gods parallels Exodus 32, where idolatry is confronted, underscoring the seriousness of faithfulness to God. Rachel’s death in childbirth can be cross-referenced with the sorrow of childbearing in Genesis 3:16, reflecting the consequences of the Fall. God’s reaffirmation of Jacob’s name and covenant is reminiscent of the promises made to Abraham in Genesis 17, showing the continuity of God’s plan through generations.

Application

Modern disciples can learn from Jacob’s example of obedience and spiritual renewal by regularly examining their own lives for influences that hinder faithfulness and committing to remove them. The chapter encourages believers to recognize God’s ongoing presence and guidance, even amid challenges and sorrow. Rachel’s death reminds us that following God’s call may involve sacrifice and pain, yet God’s promises remain sure. The



reaffirmation of identity as God's people invites believers to embrace their spiritual calling with confidence, trusting in God's faithfulness across generations.

Summary

Genesis 35 captures a crucial moment of renewal and reaffirmation in Jacob's journey, as he obeys God's command to return to Bethel, purifies his household, and receives God's blessing and covenantal promises anew. The chapter intertwines themes of obedience, divine faithfulness, and the cost of covenant commitment, illustrated by Rachel's death and the ongoing unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family. This passage reinforces the importance of spiritual purity, God's providential guidance, and the enduring nature of His covenant with His people.

Verses 8–15: Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, dies and is buried. God appears to Jacob again, blessing him and reaffirming his name as Israel, confirming the covenant promises and the future of his descendants.

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Study Guide: Genesis – Chapter 35

This study guide provides an educational overview of Genesis Chapter 35 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Genesis chapter 35 serves as a pivotal moment in the narrative of Jacob's life, marking a significant spiritual renewal and reaffirmation of God's covenant promises. This chapter contributes to the overall flow of Genesis by highlighting Jacob's obedience to God's command, the purification of his household, and the reaffirmation of his identity as Israel. Readers should watch for themes of divine guidance, covenantal faithfulness, and the unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family, which sets the stage for the future nation of Israel.

Context

Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.

Outline

The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.



Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: God commands Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar. Jacob obeys, instructing his household to discard foreign gods and purify themselves, demonstrating a commitment to covenantal faithfulness and spiritual renewal.

Verses 4-5: Jacob's household removes idols and earrings, symbolizing a break from pagan influences. They journey to Bethel, and God travels with them, providing protection and reassurance.

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Modern disciples can learn from Jacob’s example of obedience and spiritual renewal by regularly examining their own lives for influences that hinder faithfulness and committing to remove them. The chapter encourages believers to recognize God’s ongoing presence and guidance, even amid challenges and sorrow. Rachel’s death reminds us that following God’s call may involve sacrifice and pain, yet God’s promises remain sure. The reaffirmation of identity as God’s people invites believers to embrace their spiritual calling with confidence, trusting in God’s faithfulness across generations.

Summary

Genesis 35 captures a crucial moment of renewal and reaffirmation in Jacob’s journey, as he obeys God’s command to return to Bethel, purifies his household, and receives God’s



blessing and covenantal promises anew. The chapter intertwines themes of obedience, divine faithfulness, and the cost of covenant commitment, illustrated by Rachel's death and the ongoing unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family. This passage reinforces the importance of spiritual purity, God's providential guidance, and the enduring nature of His covenant with His people.

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Context

Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.

Outline

The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid



themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.

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Key Themes

One key theme is spiritual renewal and obedience, as Jacob and his household remove foreign gods and purify themselves in response to God's command. Another theme is divine faithfulness, highlighted by God's reaffirmation of the covenant and Jacob's new identity as Israel. The chapter also explores the cost of covenantal commitment, seen in Rachel's death, symbolizing both blessing and sorrow. Finally, the theme of God's



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Genesis chapter 35 serves as a pivotal moment in the narrative of Jacob's life, marking a significant spiritual renewal and reaffirmation of God's covenant promises. This chapter contributes to the overall flow of Genesis by highlighting Jacob's obedience to God's command, the purification of his household, and the reaffirmation of his identity as Israel. Readers should watch for themes of divine guidance, covenantal faithfulness, and the unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family, which sets the stage for the future nation of Israel.

Context

Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.

Outline

The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.



Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: God commands Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar. Jacob obeys, instructing his household to discard foreign gods and purify themselves, demonstrating a commitment to covenantal faithfulness and spiritual renewal.

Verses 4-5: Jacob's household removes idols and earrings, symbolizing a break from pagan influences. They journey to Bethel, and God travels with them, providing protection and reassurance.

Verses 6-7: At Bethel, Jacob builds an altar and calls the place El Bethel, "God of Bethel," commemorating God's faithfulness and presence.

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Key Themes

One key theme is spiritual renewal and obedience, as Jacob and his household remove foreign gods and purify themselves in response to God's command. Another theme is divine faithfulness, highlighted by God's reaffirmation of the covenant and Jacob's new identity as Israel. The chapter also explores the cost of covenantal commitment, seen in Rachel's death, symbolizing both blessing and sorrow. Finally, the theme of God's providential guidance is evident as God accompanies Jacob, protecting and blessing him throughout the journey.

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The command to return to Bethel echoes Genesis 28:10-22, where Jacob first encountered God and received the promise. This connection emphasizes the importance of Bethel as a



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Application

Modern disciples can learn from Jacob's example of obedience and spiritual renewal by regularly examining their own lives for influences that hinder faithfulness and committing to remove them. The chapter encourages believers to recognize God's ongoing presence and guidance, even amid challenges and sorrow. Rachel's death reminds us that following God's call may involve sacrifice and pain, yet God's promises remain sure. The reaffirmation of identity as God's people invites believers to embrace their spiritual calling with confidence, trusting in God's faithfulness across generations.

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Genesis 35 captures a crucial moment of renewal and reaffirmation in Jacob's journey, as he obeys God's command to return to Bethel, purifies his household, and receives God's blessing and covenantal promises anew. The chapter intertwines themes of obedience, divine faithfulness, and the cost of covenant commitment, illustrated by Rachel's death and the ongoing unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family. This passage reinforces the importance of spiritual purity, God's providential guidance, and the enduring nature of His covenant with His people.

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The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.

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One key theme is spiritual renewal and obedience, as Jacob and his household remove foreign gods and purify themselves in response to God's command. Another theme is divine faithfulness, highlighted by God's reaffirmation of the covenant and Jacob's new identity as Israel. The chapter also explores the cost of covenantal commitment, seen in Rachel's death, symbolizing both blessing and sorrow. Finally, the theme of God's providential guidance is evident as God accompanies Jacob, protecting and blessing him throughout the journey.

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Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.



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Study Guide: Genesis – Chapter 35

This study guide provides an educational overview of Genesis Chapter 35 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in



Scripture.

Introduction

Genesis chapter 35 serves as a pivotal moment in the narrative of Jacob's life, marking a significant spiritual renewal and reaffirmation of God's covenant promises. This chapter contributes to the overall flow of Genesis by highlighting Jacob's obedience to God's command, the purification of his household, and the reaffirmation of his identity as Israel. Readers should watch for themes of divine guidance, covenantal faithfulness, and the unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family, which sets the stage for the future nation of Israel.

Context

Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.

Outline

The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.

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Introduction

Genesis chapter 35 serves as a pivotal moment in the narrative of Jacob's life, marking a significant spiritual renewal and reaffirmation of God's covenant promises. This chapter contributes to the overall flow of Genesis by highlighting Jacob's obedience to God's command, the purification of his household, and the reaffirmation of his identity as Israel. Readers should watch for themes of divine guidance, covenantal faithfulness, and the unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family, which sets the stage for the future nation of Israel.

Context

Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.

Outline

The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's



appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.

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Study Guide: Genesis – Chapter 35

This study guide provides an educational overview of Genesis Chapter 35 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction



Genesis chapter 35 serves as a pivotal moment in the narrative of Jacob's life, marking a significant spiritual renewal and reaffirmation of God's covenant promises. This chapter contributes to the overall flow of Genesis by highlighting Jacob's obedience to God's command, the purification of his household, and the reaffirmation of his identity as Israel. Readers should watch for themes of divine guidance, covenantal faithfulness, and the unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family, which sets the stage for the future nation of Israel.

Context

Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.

Outline

The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.

Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: God commands Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar. Jacob obeys, instructing his household to discard foreign gods and purify themselves, demonstrating a commitment to covenantal faithfulness and spiritual renewal.



Verses 4-5: Jacob's household removes idols and earrings, symbolizing a break from pagan influences. They journey to Bethel, and God travels with them, providing protection and reassurance.

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Outline

The chapter begins with God's command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God's appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau's descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.

Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: God commands Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar. Jacob obeys, instructing his household to discard foreign gods and purify themselves, demonstrating a commitment to covenantal faithfulness and spiritual renewal.



Verses 4-5: Jacob's household removes idols and earrings, symbolizing a break from pagan influences. They journey to Bethel, and God travels with them, providing protection and reassurance.

Verses 6-7: At Bethel, Jacob builds an altar and calls the place El Bethel, "God of Bethel," commemorating God's faithfulness and presence.

Verses 8-15: Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, dies and is buried. God appears to Jacob again, blessing him and reaffirming his name as Israel, confirming the covenant promises and the future of his descendants.

Verses 16-21: Rachel goes into labor while traveling and gives birth to Benjamin but dies in childbirth. Jacob names the child Ben-oni, meaning "son of my sorrow," though he later calls him Benjamin, "son of the right hand."

Verses 22-26: The chapter concludes with the birth of other children to Jacob and the death of Isaac. The genealogy of Esau's descendants is briefly recorded, providing a contrast to Jacob's line and emphasizing the unfolding of God's plan through Israel.

Key Themes

One key theme is spiritual renewal and obedience, as Jacob and his household remove foreign gods and purify themselves in response to God's command. Another theme is divine faithfulness, highlighted by God's reaffirmation of the covenant and Jacob's new identity as Israel. The chapter also explores the cost of covenantal commitment, seen in Rachel's death, symbolizing both blessing and sorrow. Finally, the theme of God's providential guidance is evident as God accompanies Jacob, protecting and blessing him throughout the journey.

Cross-References

The command to return to Bethel echoes Genesis 28:10-22, where Jacob first encountered God and received the promise. This connection emphasizes the importance of Bethel as a sacred place of covenantal encounter. The removal of foreign gods parallels Exodus 32, where idolatry is confronted, underscoring the seriousness of faithfulness to God. Rachel's death in childbirth can be cross-referenced with the sorrow of childbearing in Genesis 3:16, reflecting the consequences of the Fall. God's reaffirmation of Jacob's name and covenant is reminiscent of the promises made to Abraham in Genesis 17, showing the continuity of God's plan through generations.



Application

Modern disciples can learn from Jacob's example of obedience and spiritual renewal by regularly examining their own lives for influences that hinder faithfulness and committing to remove them. The chapter encourages believers to recognize God's ongoing presence and guidance, even amid challenges and sorrow. Rachel's death reminds us that following God's call may involve sacrifice and pain, yet God's promises remain sure. The reaffirmation of identity as God's people invites believers to embrace their spiritual calling with confidence, trusting in God's faithfulness across generations.

Summary

Genesis 35 captures a crucial moment of renewal and reaffirmation in Jacob's journey, as he obeys God's command to return to Bethel, purifies his household, and receives God's blessing and covenantal promises anew. The chapter intertwines themes of obedience, divine faithfulness, and the cost of covenant commitment, illustrated by Rachel's death and the ongoing unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family. This passage reinforces the importance of spiritual purity, God's providential guidance, and the enduring nature of His covenant with His people.

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Study Guide: Genesis - Chapter 35

This study guide provides an educational overview of Genesis Chapter 35 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Genesis chapter 35 serves as a pivotal moment in the narrative of Jacob's life, marking a significant spiritual renewal and reaffirmation of God's covenant promises. This chapter contributes to the overall flow of Genesis by highlighting Jacob's obedience to God's command, the purification of his household, and the reaffirmation of his identity as Israel. Readers should watch for themes of divine guidance, covenantal faithfulness, and the unfolding of God's plan through Jacob's family, which sets the stage for the future nation of Israel.

Context

Genesis 35 follows the complex family dynamics and covenantal developments surrounding Jacob, who had previously wrestled with God and received the name Israel. The immediate literary context includes Jacob's return to Bethel, the place of his earlier encounter with God, and the purification of his household from foreign gods. Historically, this chapter is situated within the broader covenantal framework established with Abraham and Isaac, emphasizing God's ongoing promises to Jacob. Key speakers include God, who commands Jacob, and Jacob himself, who acts as the patriarch leading his family. The setting moves from Shechem to Bethel, symbolizing a return to a sacred place of divine encounter and blessing.

Outline



The chapter begins with God’s command to Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar, signaling a call to spiritual renewal. Jacob responds by instructing his household to rid themselves of foreign gods and purify themselves, emphasizing obedience and holiness. The narrative then describes their journey to Bethel, the building of the altar, and God’s appearance to Jacob, reaffirming his new name and covenant promises. The chapter continues with the death of Deborah, the birth of Benjamin, and the tragic death of Rachel in childbirth. Finally, it concludes with the death of Isaac and a brief genealogy of Esau’s descendants, linking the family lines and setting the stage for future developments.

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