

# *the* Purpose *and* Promises of God

## God's Purpose and Our Participation

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### Summary

In this passage we see that (1) God is fulfilling his purpose and his promises and (2) God graciously allows us to participate in his plan. Related to the first point, God has brought Jacob back to his home and multiplied him along the way as evidenced in twelve sons. Related to the second point, Jacob continues to pursue God and follow him as evidenced in repentance, obedience, and worship.

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### Reflection Questions

1. Brainstorm what you God do and say in this chapter. What do you learn about him as a result?
2. Brainstorm what you observe about Jacob in this chapter. What do you learn about a life of following God?
3. Jacob sets a great example of burying idols because they prevent him from a fully devoted pursuit of God. What idols do you need to bury (or are you working to bury) in your own life? What other Scriptures encourage you in this endeavor?
4. Take a look at the three application phrases from the sermon. What helps you in your efforts toward each? What is difficult in your efforts toward each?
  - a. Never doubt God's relentless pursuit of you (verses 1, 9-15).
  - b. Never tire of a relentless pursuit of God (verses 2-8).
  - c. Never fail to observe God's promises fulfilled all around you (verses 16-29).
5. Of the three statements which one do you want to give attention to this week? Why? How can others specifically help and/or pray for you?
6. What is a final takeaway for you as we leave this study in Genesis? What has changed in the way you think and/or want to live? How can you remain mindful of this in the weeks and months ahead?

**Introduction**

In Genesis 35 we see that God intervened in Jacob's life and initiated another call for him to follow in obedience. God expressed for Jacob what his next step was to be—a return home. Yahweh, as King, has the right and authority to do that. Then Jacob was left with a choice. Still living in fear after the incident at Shechem, he had to leave his bunker of safety to obey God's command. This morning I want to look at both ideas and how they weave together: God's purpose and Jacob's participation.

**Notes:****Personal Application:**

1. Never doubt God's relentless pursuit of you (vv. 1, 9-15).
2. Never tire of a relentless pursuit of God (vv. 2-8).
3. Never fail to observe God's promises fulfilled all around you (vv. 16-29).