



For good and ill, our lives are bound up in the consequences of other people's choices and decisions, just as other people are affected by those we make. Reluctance to dispense with idolatrous practices, associated with foreign gods, was a danger to be reckoned with at every stage of Israel's history. Joshua challenged the great assembly at Shechem on the same point after he had led the tribes into Canaan ([Jos 24:14-23](#)). It was perfectly obvious that there was no god to compare with their God, but the people among whom they lived were influential, confident and prosperous. The people of God were at their peak when they resisted the desire to emulate their neighbors and were true to their God. ¹

Observation

1. Where did God instruct Jacob to go?
2. Write down the vow that Jacob made to God in chapter 28:20-22, word for word.
3. What is different about how God defines the covenant to Jacob this time?
4. This chapter closes out with a disruption in the family, what could this be foreshadowing?

¹ NIV Bible Speaks Today: Notes (London: IVP, 2020), 47.



Interpretation

(Biblehub.com or Blueletterbible.org is a good resource for looking up the meanings of words)

5. What is the significance of God's instruction in chapter 35 in light of what had transpired in the previous chapter 34, and Jacob's vow in chapter 28?

6. Look up and write down the meaning of the following names:

Allon Bakuth _____

Bethel _____

El-Bethel _____

Ben-Oni _____

Benjamin _____

Migdal Eder _____

7. What does the name God Almighty (El-Shaddai) mean to you, what attributes of God does this name encompass?

Application

8. How is scripture directing you to step into the identity God has given you, to embrace it fully, as a representative for His Kingdom to come?