

SINGING: 401:2,3,4 – 243:7,8 – 166 – 121:1,4 – 137:3,6

READING: Exodus 20: 1 – 17; Genesis 35: 1 – 20

JACOB BACK TO BETHEL

Text: Genesis 35: 1

"And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

Jacob back to Bethel

- The Lord Himself has said in His Word: "Jacob have I loved," and that love with which He has loved him is a love from all eternity.
- He had deceived his own father, even as his mother Rebecca was behind it.
- At that time Jacob did not know the way out. No! Everything was dark for that man.
- You can understand that the revelation of Christ is a great blessing in our life, if that happens.

This he had neglected afterwards.

- It is a blessing if we come to the realization what we have done many years ago to our parents.
- This took place at Peniel, twenty years later. We must realize, that it is not God's common way to be in a hurry with His people.
- Then the Lord said, "What is thy name? Did not Jacob know that his name was Jacob?"

- Do you know how long it took for Jacob to go to Bethel after Peniel? Ten years!
- In the end, it was all the fault of Jacob, because he had neglected to come back to Bethel!

This God still required of him.

- The Lord brought that man back, but it has cost him his flesh.
- It took him ten years to come from Peniel back to Bethel.
- Still, at that place, the Lord gave him a second benefit.

This resulted in a second benefit.

- Now Jacob had gone from Bethel without the assurance of the Holy Spirit.
Did you ever observe that in the life of Jacob?
- And who confirms the grace of God in our heart? That is the third person in the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit.
- "And he built *there* an altar, and called the place El-bethel.
- If we know the Lord, then we know everything. Then we know a God for our heart and a Surety for our soul.