**Main Thought** In this retrospective, Jacob comes full circle (inclusio) after his 20 year hiatus and Esau chooses to live outside of Canaan.

**JACOB RETURNS TO HEBRON** (35:16-29).

**FROM BETHEL TO BETHLEHEM** (16-20). RACHEL’S DEATH

- Rachel had prayed for another son (30:24) but she died in childbirth (Prov. 14:32). She named him Ben (son of) oni (trouble) but Jacob would change it to Ben (son of) jamin (right hand/south [Yemen]).
- Today Rachel’s tomb is found between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, or Ephrath (Ruth 1:2; 4:11; 1 Sam. 17:12). This sad incident is connected with Herod’s attempt to kill Jesus at his birth in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:18).

**FROM BETHEL TO MIGDAL EDER** (21-26). REUBEN’S SIN

- In an attempt to secure his right of primogenitor upon Rachel’s death, Reuben, the firstborn, sleeps with Rachel’s concubine Bilhah to defile her thus preventing her from becoming chief wife (Lev. 18:8).
- For his sin, he forfeits his right of primogenitor as it skips Simeon and Levi and now falls upon Judah (49:1-10).

**FROM MIGDAL EDER TO HEBRON** (27-29). ISAAC’S DEATH

- Jacob finally returns home (inclusio). Along with Esau, they bury their father Isaac who lived 180 years (Abraham lived 175 years).
- He was buried in the Cave of Machpelah (23:19-20; 25:9-10; 49:29-32).

> Some saints soar with wings of eagles, others run, and some only walk; nevertheless, all complete the journey.”
> **BRUCE WALKE**

**ESAU LEAVES CANAAN TO EDOM** (36:1-43; 37:1)

**FROM CANAAN TO EDOM** (1-8).

- In contrast to Jacob, Esau marries Canaanite women (Deut. 7:3-4).
- In contrast to Jacob’s return from exile (like the Exodus and the Babylonian Captivity) to the Promised Land, Esau leaves the promised land in hopes of prosperity (like Lot).

**FROM EDOM TO SEIR** (9-43). In God’s providence, Esau is blessed with kings (31; 35:11). Though flawed (Psa. 137:7; Herod the Great), they were not to be “abhored” (Deut. 23:7) for they can have a future with God (Rev. 7:9).

**FROM EDOM TO CANAAN** (37:1). We, like the patriarchs (Heb. 11:9), should make every effort to live in the land of promise and blessing (Heb. 4:11).