5/24/09

***Recap of 5/17/09:***

*1. Many, like Jacob and his family, are in need of a new beginning. For the believer that means dealing with sin, being single-minded toward God, and being holy (set apart to God, from sin, purified, cleansed). It also means being fully committed to the Word of God (in obedience, in accurate interpretation), to the Holy Spirit (yielding to His control in our lives, when we do He lives out the Word of God through us), and to ministry using our unique resources, gifts and heartbeat.*

*2. Jacob’s newfound commitment to God did not keep him from sorrow and trials. Soon after his recommitment his beloved Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin.*

*3. God calls Himself God Almighty (El Shaddai) in renewing His promises to Jacob, which pictures God as the overpowering One standing on a mountain triumphantly. In other places God is named: El Olam, the Everlasting God, used in connection with His inexhaustible strength; Jehovah Jireh, meaning the Lord provides; Jehovah Shalom, the Lord is peace; Jehovah Sabbaoth, the Lord of Heaven’s Hosts, the protector of Israel; and Jehovah Roi, the Lord my Shepherd.*

**“Success and Suffering”**

**Genesis 36:1 – 37:2**

I. Why do the unrighteous prosper? 36:1-43

II. Why do the righteous suffer? 37:1,2