

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 27 & 28

7/15-16/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
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OPENING PRAYER

Genesis Chapter 27 – Isaac Blesses Jacob (vs. 1-29); Esau’s Lost Hope – (vs. 30-40); Jacob Escapes From Esau (vs. 41-28:2)!

Genesis Chapter 28 – God gives Jacob the promises made to Abraham – (vs. 3-5); Esau Marries Mahalath (vs. 6-9); Jacob’s Vow at Bethel – (vs. 10-22)!

Isaac Blesses Jacob

Gen 27:1 Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am."

Gen 27:2 Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death."

Gen 27:3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.

Gen 27:4 And make me savory (delicious) food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.

- **Admittedly, from Isaac, the Spirit is not involved in this issue at all.** It is his soul. It is his flesh. I want some delicious food that *my soul might bless you before I die.*
- **At this point, Isaac was one hundred and thirty-seven years old, and he was blind.** Because his older brother Ishmael had died at the age of a hundred and thirty-seven, he perhaps thought, "Well, this is about it for me," and he figured he was dying. He didn't! He lived for another forty-three years, dying at one hundred and eighty. But figuring that he was dying he called Esau in that he might bestow a blessing upon him. Now in this, Isaac is deliberately seeking to circumvent the declarations of God!
- **The blessing that he gives to Jacob, who disguised himself as his brother Esau,** is that his brother will serve him. In that, he is trying to cross what God had declared before the children were born. When Rebekah was having difficulty with her pregnancy, miserable from the action that was going on in her womb said, "Lord, what is happening?" The Lord told her that there were two nations in her womb. They are different from each other and the older will serve the younger."
- **That was God's sovereign declaration before they were ever born.** That was God's plan. Isaac is trying to move out of the plan of God. Isaac favors Esau. He is going to try to move out of the plan of God, trying to change that which God has declared. He is going to put the blessing upon Esau and make the younger serve him. So Isaac is not pure and innocent in this thing at all! He is acting after the flesh. He is talking about my soul, that it might bless you.

Gen 27:5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it.

- **Rebekah was listening.** Isaac, knowing he was wrong in deciding to transmit the blessing to Esau, was secretive about his plans. His actions would wrongly award Esau the place of both physical and spiritual pre-eminence in the family (***Gen 27:29b***) And let your mother's sons bow down to you. The blessing was intended by God for the line of the promised Seed. Rebekah happened to overhear Isaac's plans. At this time, Jacob and Esau were probably about 75 years old, and Isaac 135. Isaac will live about another 45 years, dying, (***Gen 35:28***) *Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.*

Gen 27:6 So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying,

Gen 27:7 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.'

Gen 27:8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.

- **Some way to talk to a son, who was about 75 years old.**

Gen 27:9 Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.

Gen 27:10 Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.

Gen 27:11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man.

Gen 27:12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

Gen 27:13 But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."

Gen 27:14 And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.

Gen 27:15 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

- These possibly were the clothes of honor that were often given to the son that was to inherit the position in the family. The brothers of Joseph became extremely jealous when his father gave to him the coat of many colors. A coat of honor indicating Jacob's intention to give to Joseph the place of headship in the family after his death. It is thought that that's what these robes did signify and that Rebekah kept them in her tent. Esau, no doubt, was living elsewhere with his two wives at this time.

Gen 27:16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

Gen 27:17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Gen 27:18 So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

Gen 27:19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

Gen 27:20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

- No doubt Isaac was beginning to have suspicion. He figured that something was not quite right.
- Jacob is not honorable in this whole thing! He is deceiving and he is lying! Isaac is not honorable! He is trying to cross the plan of God. He is trying to give the blessing to Esau, which God said would go to Jacob. Esau had already sold his birthright. Isaac knew that. Rebekah isn't totally honorable. She has set up the whole deception.
- Here, again, we have an interesting story in which there are people who believe firmly in the purposes that God has declared, have faith in God and His purposes, but make the mistake of somehow believing that God cannot accomplish His purposes apart from our help!
- **A reminder once again of man's tendency to "help God out!" How aware of that am I? When was the last time I was guilty of that?**
- So their little deception and all is their endeavor to see that the purposes of God be fulfilled. You don't have to worry about the purposes of God; they're going to stand. What God has determined is going to be.
- You cannot stop the purposes of God from being fulfilled. If you try, you will surely fail! God will raise up someone else. God is going to get His work accomplished and He doesn't need our help. Here unfortunately, they felt that they had to deceive and they had to lie in order to help God. What a twist. Here is a classic example of them trying to help themselves, to help God fulfil His plan and to fulfill His purpose. I don't know how God would have done it. I'm certain that He would have!
- The end does not justify the means. That is a damnable philosophy that has been embraced many times by the church. Paul came down on that philosophy. (*Rom 3:8*) And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come?"—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just." God forbid!" Paul said. Damnable philosophy that I should do evil that good may come from it. That the end will justify the means. We are never justified in doing that which is wrong, that which is deceitful, that which is of the flesh in order to try to get the word of God glorified. Like Paul said, if God is glorified in my life, why can God judge me as a sinner?
- Paul said that it doesn't happen that way, not so. You cannot justify the means, because it may bring good results in the end. It doesn't work that way. It's a damnable philosophy that has been embraced by the church and it has created far more harm than it has good.
- **Am I clear that the end does not justify the means?**
- So Jacob said to his father, *I am Esau your firstborn, which is an outright lie.* "I've done just as you've told me. Please arise, sit, and eat my game, that your soul may bless me." But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you found it so quickly?" "Because the LORD." Now Jacob even brings God into this thing. So sad!

Gen 27:21 Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."

Gen 27:22 *So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him (being suspicious) and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."*

Gen 27:23 *And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.*

- **Hairy.** That's giving you the literal translation of their names. Esau means hairy. He got the name because he was such a hairy kid when he was born. Rebekah had taken the skins and tied it on his hands. He was feeling the skin of the fur on these little goats. Yes, that's Esau's hand. He must have really been a hairy guy if he felt like a little goat.
- **So Jacob went near to Isaac his father; and felt him** and he said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

Gen 27:24 *Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am."*

Gen 27:25 *He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.*

Gen 27:26 *Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."*

Gen 27:27 *And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son Is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed.*

- **When he came close he smelled the clothes**, and he was wearing his brother's robe and so he smelled of the field.

Gen 27:28 *Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine.*

- **In this blessing he was intending for Esau, he is trying to actually disqualify what God had declared** should be the case. So Isaac, too, is really at fault here. It is a direct disobedience to that which God has declared in his endeavor to make Jacob subservient to Esau. So Isaac is going against what God has declared.

Gen 27:29 *Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"*

Gen 27:30 *Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.*

- **What a close call! He just left when Esau came in!** Note the fine timing of God's counsel, as well as a capsule commentary on the urgency of the drama from Jacob's standpoint, being shown by the immediate arrival of Esau, just as Jacob left Isaac's presence!

Gen 27:31 *He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."*

Gen 27:32 *And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."*

Gen 27:33 *Then Isaac trembled exceedingly! and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed!"*

- **Isaac has been caught.** He's fearful now. He knows that he was trying to go against what God had declared. Suddenly he realizes that he has been caught and he is trembling exceedingly!
- **Now Isaac, rather than recanting the blessing, realizes that God is involved in this and he affirms that the blessing shall be given to Jacob!** He tried to twist it. He was foiled, and now he realizes that God's purposes shall stand! "Indeed, he shall be blessed." (**Heb 11:20**) By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

Gen 27:34 *When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!"*

- **So this wail, exceeding bitter cry**, and we again remember that Esau was the rugged hardy man of the field, the hunter. Where Jacob, it says, was a plain or mild man. That word *plain* (*tam*) in other areas of the Old Testament, Job for example, is translated *righteous*, or has to do with his character of being a good man, a righteous man. But here is this rugged hunter, tough man of the field, wailing, crying, crying out for the blessing.

Gen 27:35 *But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."*

Gen 27:36 *And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, (untrue, Jacob bought with Esau's agreeing), and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"*

- **He has taken away my blessing! This blessing is indeed most important.** It is the sanctioning of the rights of the firstborn and is not re-assignable! This blessing included two significant things. The right of the firstborn of being the high priest in the family, as well as being entitled to a double portion of the inheritance!
- **Earlier in the story when Esau had come in from the field and he was faint, weary, and tired,** Jacob had made this great gourmet stew with red lentils and all, Esau said, "Oh man, give me some of that stew." And Jacob said, "Give me your birthright." He said, "Jacob, what good is it to me if I die of hunger?" "Swear to me that I'll have it," and he said, "I swear you can have it." And he ate the food and left. And it said, "So Esau hated his birthright." He didn't care about it, but he did care about the blessing. I don't care about birthright, so what. Man, I want the blessing. Typical man of the flesh, man after the flesh. He just wants the blessings.
- **Now in Hebrews, as the commentary is made,** concerning this particular experience of Esau crying, this wail, this bitter cry over what had happened with his brother, we are told that Esau who came in afterwards did not receive the blessing though he sought it, for he found no place for repentance though he sought it with tears. (*Heb 12:16-17*) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. [17] For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.
- **Some have mistranslated or misinterpreted that passage of Hebrews** thinking that he had sought repentance with tears but he had gone too far and couldn't find a place for repentance. No, not so. The reason why he didn't get the blessing is he did not repent. What he sought with tears was not repentance, but was the blessing, as is quite obvious in this story. He found no place for repentance, and that is why he wasn't blessed. There wasn't any true repentance. All he wanted was the blessing. That is the proper interpretation of that passage in Hebrews.

Gen 27:37 *Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"*

- **So Isaac had done for Jacob what he intended to do for Esau,** which was contrary to what God had declared!

Gen 27:38 *And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.*

Gen 27:39 *Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above."*

Gen 27:40 *By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."*

- **Esau moved to Edom and became the father of the Edomites,** who during the period of the history of Israel were subservient to Israel. The last Edomite that we know of in history was Herod the Great. He was the king over Israel at the time of Jesus Christ, appointed by the Roman Government.
- (*2Ki 8:16,20*) *Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jehoshaphat having been king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat began to reign as king of Judah. [20] In his days Edom revolted against Judah's authority, and made a king over themselves.*

Gen 27:41 *So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."*

- **So he figured his dad was going to die soon.** They really misjudged his condition. He lived for another forty-three years. But as soon as dad dies, I'm going to *kill my brother Jacob*.

Gen 27:42 *And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you.*

Gen 27:43 *Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.*

Gen 27:44 *And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,*

- **She figured that Esau would soon forget it** and no longer be angry.

Gen 27:45 until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

Gen 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

- **Rebekah is saying, that is too much. I can't handle that.** She is complaining to her husband that she doesn't want any more daughters-in-law from the area around there, like Esau's wives.
- **This bit of deception and all did cost Rebekah her relationship with her son Jacob, because he fled** from the wrath of Esau. He moved to the area of Haran, which is some five hundred miles away, and was there for twenty years before he returned. By the time he returned, she was already dead. So this son Jacob whom she loved, as the result of setting up this bit of deception, she lost him in a sense, because she never saw him again after he departed.
- **All of the participants were at fault!** Isaac attempted to thwart the plan of God, by blessing Esau! Esau broke the oath he had made with Jacob! Rebekah and Jacob tried to obtain God's blessing by deception! Their victory would cause hatred and separation. Rebekah would never see Jacob again!
- **What a great application for us to remember. Whenever we think we see the need to "help God out", know that it is the wrong thing to do, especially if any part of our "help" is not in accordance with His perfect will! Think of the loss here to all four of the participants!**

Jacob Sent to Laban; He gives the Blessing of Abraham to Jacob!

Gen 28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

- **Daughters of Canaan.** Jacob was probably seventy-five years old, and Isaac had been inexcusably negligent in not attempting long before this (as Abraham had done for him) to find suitable wives among his home countrymen for his sons. Esau's bigamous marriage to two Hittite women had been one tragic consequence of his negligence.

Gen 28:2 Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

Gen 28:3 "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;

Gen 28:4 And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

- Now there is that recognition by Isaac of that Abrahamic blessing and covenant that is to be passed on to Jacob. So Isaac declares this blessing to now be now upon Jacob as he sends him away. Now for all intents and purposes, Isaac probably figured that this would be the last time that he would have any kind of relationship with Jacob too; figuring that he was going to die most any time, figuring he'd never see him again. So, he places upon him this great blessing now of the family rites and so forth of Abraham, which had been passed to Isaac and now he passes on to Jacob.

Gen 28:5 So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

Esau Marries an Ishmaelite

Gen 28:6 Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there (hoping that would be more pleasing to parents), and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,"

Gen 28:7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.

Gen 28:8 Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.

Gen 28:9 So Esau went to Ishmael (Esau's uncle) and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

- **So Esau went to Ishmael (Esau's uncle).** Esau, finally realizing his troubles were of his own doing, and realizing that his father no longer supported his position, was belatedly trying to help

matters by marrying a daughter of Ishmael, the son of the bond-woman, who was cast out, and was not to inherit with Isaac and his seed, thus joining with a wife from a family that God had rejected.

Jacob's Dream

Gen 28:10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

Gen 28:11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

- **Jacob was really making great time!** The distance between Beersheba and Bethel is more than forty miles. He is really getting out of there fast. He doesn't know if Esau may be chasing him and is going to catch him on the way. It's already dark. The sun had already set, or at least twilight by the time he came to Bethel.

Gen 28:12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

- ***He dreamed.*** Jacob had had a long journey, weary, aching, feet sore, pillow as a rock, and of course, this whole emotional scene is still fresh in his mind. His brother is going to kill him and this whole thing is heavy. He lies down in weariness and he dreams.
- ***This mighty ladder that Jacob saw, reaching far up from earth to heaven,*** with the angels ascending and descending is referred to in the first chapter of John when Jesus found Philip, who then introduced Nathanael to Jesus, who said, "Well, before Philip called you, I saw you sitting under the fig tree." Nathanael said, "Now I know that you are the Messiah, the promised one of God." (***Joh 1:50-51***) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." [51] And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*
- ***Taking the figure of Jacob's dream, the ladder that reached to heaven*** where by God met man, Jesus is declaring, I'm the ladder upon which the angels ascend and descend! I'm the ladder that brings man to God! I am the ladder that bridges the gulf! Later in (***Joh 14:6***) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
- ***Its top reached to heaven, and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*** We have no record of God appearing or actually speaking to Jacob, as He had to Abraham and Isaac. This was a theophany, happening in the form of a remarkable dream. Jacob was assured of God's intense interest and of Jacob's own key role in God's plan, as well as assuring Jacob of his own access to God through prayer and obedience. The great ladder (possibly more like a staircase) with ascending and descending angels, clearly picturing to Jacob the interrelationships of earth and heaven. Bridging the gulf between earth and heaven, **symbolized Christ Himself!**
- ***In other word, the Lord Jesus Christ claimed that He Himself was Jacob's Ladder, the one means by which one could go from earth to heaven.*** He is the Way? He is the one Mediator, between man and God. All the infinite ministries and activities of the mighty angels depend on Him. He is none other than God, the Creator, the Sustainer, and the Redeemer of all things! **It is Jesus' declaration that He is that ladder! He is that way by which man can come to God!**
- ***When was your most special time of finding and seeing your "Jacob's Ladder"? Maybe going from a time and place of great difficulty and anxiety to being in the complete wonder and awareness of His presence?***

Gen 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

- ***Now the LORD gives the Abrahamic blessing and covenant on to Jacob!*** In this very area of Bethel is where Lot separated from Abraham. After Lot had separated from Abraham, God there at Bethel said, "Now look towards the north, and the east, and the south, and the west and all of the land that you can see; I have given to you and your descendants." So, here now at Bethel again is where God met Jacob. God now promises to Jacob the promise that He made to Abraham, that He was going to give to him this land, where you are now lying to you and your descendants!

Gen 28:14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed (singular) all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

- *Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth!* That is as far as their number.
- *You shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* That is through the Messiah that is to come from Jacob. Abraham was promised that through his seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. Seed singular, as of one, not of many, for it is a reference to the Messiah! Now it is repeated to Jacob and will later be repeated to David.

Gen 28:15 *Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.*

- No doubt Jacob had a lot of misgivings as he was running away. There are a lot of perils and uncertainties now in the future. It was a long way to Haran, Padan Aram. There are a lot of perils between here and there. I may never arrive there. If I arrive there, the family may have moved. What is going to happen to me? What does the future hold? Will I ever come back this way? Will I ever come back into the land? Is this the end of the road? So, God speaks to him and God tells him that He's going to be with him and that He would bring him back to this land. *for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you!"*

Gen 28:16 *Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."*

- The night before he had no consciousness of the presence of God. His heart was filled with fear, uncertainty, and anxiety concerning the future. He had no consciousness of God. He was weary, frightened, and lonely! The future was so uncertain. No conscientiousness of God. But after this dream, when he awoke, he realized the LORD is in this place!
- Many times we find ourselves as Jacob in a place of anxiety, uncertainty, pressure, trouble! I don't know what the future holds. I don't know what is in front of me. I know what is behind me, trouble. I can't go back, my brother will kill me. I've got to go on, but I don't know what the future holds. In that point of anxiety and concern we're not aware of God's presence. We're not aware of the God's hand, God's plan. I can't see the hand of God in these circumstances. It seems that God has forsaken me. It seems that I'm desolate. God isn't here. Somehow God has just left me. Not so! God revealed himself to Jacob, and he said, Surely, the LORD is in this place. Where there God confirmed the promises and the covenant to him. *God is in this place. I didn't know it!*
- **How many times have you said, "surely the LORD is in this place?" What or which is your most special one?**
- So Jacob foresaw the Day of the Lord. The Lord spoke to him, interestingly enough, about Jesus, the seed of Jacob that indeed would be the bridge to bring man to God. In your seed all the families of the earth are going to be blessed!

Gen 28:17 *And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"*

- Jacob said Bethel is the gate of heaven, an awesome place! In the natural it is a very ugly place! It is rocky, barren, having nothing geographically to suggest the presence of God, but when God is there, it is beautiful, a place where you meet God! It is always a special place within your life!

Gen 28:18 *Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.*

Gen 28:19 *And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.*

- Bethel - House of God! Jacob would have known of the omnipresence of God that He indeed is everywhere, but God was here in a special way to Jacob! Here He had been actually seen and heard! Here He met with His people. This place should be called the House (Beit) of God (El) – "Bethel, though it had formerly been called Luz.

Gen 28:20 *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,*

- *If God will be with me, and keep me in this way.* That is not really a good way to begin a prayer. Putting God on the spot in order to expect or demand something in return. It would have been much better if Jacob had prayed something like this: "Because You promised to be with me and to keep me and to provide for all my needs, and to bring me back to the land which You swore to give to my fathers and to me, I will be completely Yours, God!"

- **Jacob is a real wheeler-dealer.** We will continue to see that in the next couple of chapters. He is a shrewd one to deal with! Now he is even going to deal with God! He is going to make a deal with God.

Gen 28:21 *so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.*

Gen 28:22 *And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.*"

- So Jacob made a vow saying, I will cut you in for a *tenth* of everything!
- There are two interpretations suggested of Jacob's vow: (1) that he is bargaining with God by saying "If....if"; (2) that he is showing faith in God, for the Hebrew word can be translated "Since....since" This is actually the first vow recorded in the Bible.
- It is likely that both interpretations are true: Jacob believed God's Word, but there was still enough of the "old man" in him to try to bargain with God the way he bargained with Esau and Isaac. He was so accustomed to "scheming" that he tried to scheme his way into God's blessing! This was finally exposed and dealt with at Jabbok (*Gen 32:1-32*). Jacob did return home in peace (*Gen 35:27-29*), and he practiced tithing (*Gen 28:22*). He realized that his dedication to God meant nothing unless his material goods were under His control as well. Abraham had practiced tithing (*Gen 14:20*), and in both cases the Law had not yet been given.
- **Caution! We are to be careful not to make "deals" or conditional promises to God! Chances are, we will not keep them!**
- Final comment on Divine Election. Putting the story of Jacob and Esau in context of the New Testament, we read (*Rom 9:11-13*) *(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), [12] it was said to her, "THE OLDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER." [13] As it is written, "JACOB I HAVE LOVED, BUT ESAU I HAVE HATED."* **The older shall serve the younger.** Paul uses this as a classic example of divine election, how that while they were still in the womb, God chose Jacob. How it is by God's choosing, by God's election.
- I can understand a little bit why God didn't care for Esau because he was totally a man after the flesh. He wasn't really concerned with God. He hated his birthright. He wasn't concerned with spiritual things. I can understand the Lord saying, "Esau I hated."
- The thing I have a problem with is understanding why God said, "Jacob have I loved!" But I also have an understanding why God would say, "Phil have I loved!" I am comforted by the fact that God loved Jacob. The grace of God, the sovereignty of God in grace and in election. Jacob have I loved. He's not the most loveable man. And yet God loved him!
- The beauty is that God loves you! God wants you to experience the awesomeness of His presence in your life. It is interesting that it is often in the place of great trial that we come to know the presence of God. It is when we are really pressed to the wall, when we are under a great strain, when we're in that place of real uncertainty is often the place where God reveals Himself to us. It may be then, we come into that vital conscientiousness, **God surely is in this place!**
- Oh, the love of God! The greatest thing in all my life is knowing, loving and serving You!

SUMMARY

- Isaac Blesses Jacob! Because of love for Esau's savory food, Isaac goes against God's stated purpose that the younger was to be served by the older! (*Gen 27:3-4*) *Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. [4] And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.*"
- Listening Rebekah decides to help God in intervening with Jacob's help, to thwart Isaac's intention of giving the blessing to Esau. (*Gen 27:5a-8*) *Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. [6] So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother; saying, [7] 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' [8] Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.*

- **Jacob obeys his mother, and lies repeatedly to his father. (Gen 27:19-20)** *Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." [20] But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."*
- **Issac, mistakenly thinking he is giving his blessing to Esau, gives it to Jacob. (Gen 27:28-29)** *Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. [29] Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"*
- **Esau returns, Isaac realizes what he had done. But he does not withdraw the blessing from Jacob, but confirms it! (Gen 27:33)** *Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed." (Gen 28:3-4a) "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; [4] And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land."*
- **Jacob, enroute to Padam Aram, encounters God at Bethel; God gives Abrahamic Covenant to him! (Gen 28:12-14)** *Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. [13] And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. [14] Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
- **Jacob makes vow to God! (Gen 28:20-22)** *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If (since?) God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, [21] so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. [22] And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."*

CLOSING SONG

Oh, the love of God! The greatest thing in all my life is knowing, loving and serving You! (Php 3:10) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 29 & 30!

Read and meditate Deuteronomy 28! As you read, think about the stages of history of our country – in the beginning, middle and present conditions as they relate to how we honor and obey Him! Pray for the church and for our nation, to humbly turn totally to the God of the Bible, to the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ!