



“The Story of Jacob” (Genesis 27-35) 2014

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Intro: Read 25:23-28

27:1-4 Despite God’s prophetic word regarding Esau and Jacob, Isaac intends to grant the blessing of the firstborn to Esau. The firstborn was the one to have the greater inheritance, but God had prophesied that in this case the younger one was to have what would normally go to the older. Hebrews 12:23 says that we are the church of the firstborn.

Why would Isaac go against God’s Word in granting Esau the blessing of the firstborn? Refer back to 25:28.

27:5-10 Why would Rebekah plot such a deceptive scheme? Two reasons: One, Jacob is her favorite son, and two, she has no faith in God’s Word.

27:11-41 After reading the text, go back and read 25:29-34. Esau held a grudge against his brother for something that was in reality his own fault.

27:42-28:9 A dysfunctional family is a family in which conflict, misbehavior, and often child neglect or abuse on the part of individual parents occur continually and regularly, leading other members to accommodate such actions.

The answer to a dysfunctional family is a relationship with and trust in God.

28:10-22 Heaven is working on Jacob’s behalf, and he does not deserve it. What grace for God to reveal himself to Jacob in spite of his deceptive ways!

Jacob’s commitment to give God a tenth no doubt comes from the story in Genesis 14 of Abraham giving Melchizedek a tenth. I believe giving God a tenth is the principle that applies to every believer in every age.

29:1-15 Summarize these verses, then read 29:16-18.

29:19-29 Summarize these verses, then read the middle of 29:30.

29:31-35 Read these verses, then summarize 30:1-24; What a soap opera!

29:25-31:9 Summarize these verses, then read 31:10-13.

31:14—32:6 Summarize these verses, then read 32:7-12.

32:13-21 Summarize these verses, then read 32:20 (middle of verse).

- What Jacob needs is a fresh encounter with the Lord. He needs to stop living in fear and learn to trust God. He needs to stop living up to his earthly name (“heel grabber”), and live more as a child of God (blessed as a firstborn son). He needs to become a leader in his family, and if he does he will require all idols to be removed.

32:22-32 This would become the turning point in Jacob’s life.

- Israel = “God prevails”
- Jacob’s limp would be a constant reminder of this encounter with the Lord.

33:1-19 Summarize these verses, then read 33:20. Jacob is growing in his faith, but I am suspicious about him settling in Shechem. Whether it was a mistake or not I can’t say for sure, but either way something terrible happens while he is there. Summarize chapter 34.

35:1-15 Jacob has become the leader God intended him to be. But the struggles of life still continue. Wouldn’t it be great if the struggles of life ended when we become mature in the Lord?

35:16-18 Rachael’s faithless character comes through once again. Remember, she is the one who had stolen her father’s household gods, the same idols that Jacob demanded removed from his house and that he buried (35:2-4). She names this child “son of my trouble.” What a selfish, faithless act. But Jacob names the child by faith, “son of my right hand.” He continues to mature in the Lord, and the struggles of life continue to test him. Read 35:19-22, noting that God refers to him as “Israel.”

35:22b-29 Summarize these verses.

37:1-2a This is an interesting opening statement, because it is the story of Joseph. Next Wednesday we will look at the story of Joseph, but for tonight let me say that the story of Joseph involves Jacob, and it is one of the greatest struggles in Jacob’s life as a mature saint. Note 37:3a. Joseph will be sold by his brothers and become a slave in Egypt, but his brothers make it appear to Jacob that Joseph has been killed by a wild animal. The pain of this loss was tremendous for Jacob (see 37:31-35). Years would pass, a severe famine would sweep through the land, and Jacob would send his brothers to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph has become second in command of all Egypt. He reveals himself to his brothers, sends for his father and his whole family to come to Egypt where he takes care of them during the famine.

48:11-20 What a mature man of faith Jacob has become! Summarize chapter 49:1-28, then read 49:29-32. One of the greatest marks of Jacob’s maturity in the Lord was his learning to love by faith. Recommend “Learning to Love by Faith.”

49:33 “gathered to his people” = the people of faith.

LESSONS

- We should honor the Lord with a tithe of all our increase (Prov.3:9; II Chron.31:5).
- We do not have to manipulate in order to gain God’s blessing.
- Gal.6:7 is true.
 - Gal.6:7 Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
- Don’t wrestle with God.
- Be the leader God has called you to be.
- Learn to live, and love, by faith.
- Don’t expect an end to life’s struggles until this life is over.