



The account of

Jacob

Genesis 27-35

Journey Through the Bible (16)

The Patriarchs (5)

Background

- We are continuing with the 4th period of Bible history - the patriarchs
- In our last lesson, we were introduced to Jacob and Esau (twins)
- We noted his competitive and deceitful relationship in his family.

Background - Jacob

- He was of a mild disposition, dwelling in tents.
He obtained Esau's birthright for a bowl of stew.
- He was Isaac's "son of prophecy"
- His name (Heb) for "Heel" and the verb for "cheat". Both are descriptive of him

Background - Jacob

- His name will be changed to Israel and he becomes the father of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- His life is recorded in **Genesis 25 - 34**, then **49-50**

Background - Jacob

- Mentioned 25 times in the NT (NKJV)
- Lineage - **Matt. 1:1, LK. 3:34, Acts 7:8**
- The “trio” - **Matt. 8:11, 22:32, Acts 3:13, etc.**
- **Luke 1:33** - Jesus reign over house of Jacob forever
- **Act 7:12ff (7x)**
- **Romans 9:13, 11:26**
- **Hebrews 11:9, 20, 21** - his faith

Jacob's Life

- Previously, we noted how he interacted with his father, Isaac.
Because of stealing Esau's birthright, he is forced to flee to Haran, where Laban's family is.
- **Genesis 27:41-28:5** Rebekah goes to Jacob with this concern. She does NOT want him marrying Canaanite women. Isaac sends him away blessing him again

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Vow**

Genesis 28:10-23

A significant spiritual even in Jacob's life - a turning point.

- Lays his head on a rock (has nothing)
- His dream (Jacob's ladder).
The LORD tells him he will return and be given the land promised.
- He names the place Bethel (house of God)

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Vow**

Genesis 28:10-23

He marks the stone and makes a vow to God - if he returns...

He asks for God's

- Presence
- Provisions
- Protection

- Vows to give a 10th of everything to Him

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Vow**

Genesis 28:10-23

Is Isaac setting conditions with God for his loyalty? Consider:

- He already knows YHWH (because of Isaac, etc.)
 - He has seen Him fulfill promises
 - He is RESPONDING to the LORD
- He is humbled and making changes.

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob at Laban's homestead**

Genesis 29

Jacob meets Rachel at a well and rejoices. The 20 year “game” begins.

NOTE: Jacob is likely in his 60s to 70s when he meet Rachel and Leah.

- He works 7 years for Rachel, but receives Leah... Works another 7 years for Rachel, then 6+ for flocks...

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Family Begins**

Genesis 29:31ff

Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah and there is Jealousy.

- The LORD “helps” - Leah conceives.
 - Reuben - “He has seen MY affliction” or “A son”
 - Simeon - “He has heard”
 - Levi - “Attracted to”
 - Judah - “Praise”

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Family Begins**

Genesis 29:31ff

Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah

- In jealousy, Rachel demands children from Jacob. Jacob is rightly angry.

She gives Jacob her handmaid,

Bilhah and “conceives through her”

- Dan - “He judged”

- Naphtali - “wrestlings”

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Family Begins**

Genesis 29:31ff

Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah

- Leah has stopped bearing so she gives Jacob her handmaid, **Zilpah**

- Gad - “A troop” or “Fortune”

- Asher - “Happy”

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Family Begins**

Genesis 29:31ff

Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah

- Enmity continues, and Rachel(rashly) “arranges” Leah to lie with Jacob

Leah bears 2 more sons

- Issachar - “Wages”
- Zebulun - “Dwelling”

- She then bears a daughter, Dinah (Judgment)

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob's Family Begins**

Genesis 29:31ff

Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah

- God “remembered” **Rachel**.

She gives birth to Joseph - “He will add”

- NOTE: Here we have 11 sons and 1 daughter. Likely, the timing of the conception of some overlap

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob continues with Laban**

Genesis 30:25ff

After the 14 years, Laban offers Jacob wages - flocks. An agreement is reached (but we read there is deception as it is carried out). God blesses Jacob and he prospers greatly - far more than Laban.

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob leaves Laban**

Genesis 31ff

After 20+ years, Jacob hears grumblings and decides it is time to return to Canaan.

***Gen. 31:3, 12-13** - YHWH told him to return and He would be with him.

- They leave unannounced. Rachel takes Laban's "household idols."

(19)

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob leaves Laban**

Genesis 31:22ff

After 3 days, Laban discovers Jacob is gone with his family. He pursues Jacob but is WARNED by the LORD to leave him alone (3:24).

- When he finds Jacob there is a conversation. He searches for his “idols” but they are hidden by Rachel.

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob leaves Laban**

Genesis 31:22ff

Jacob rebukes Laban noting that the only reason he was protected was because YHWH was with him.

NOTE 31:42 where Jacob declares his spiritual heritage

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob leaves Laban**

Genesis 31:43ff

Jacob and Laban make a covenant at the place that they would **NOT** cross that border with intent to harm each other.

Laban called it “Jager” (Witness - Aramaic), Jacob called it Galeed (Witness - Hebrew) - **HERITAGE!**

- The place is named “Mizpah” (31:49) - “May God watch between you and me when we are absent from one another.”

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob leaves Laban**

Genesis 31:43ff

Laban says goodbye to his family and they part ways peacefully.

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob prepares to meet Esau**

Genesis 32ff

Jacob proceeds toward Canaan and offers “gifts” to Esau hoping to appease him (20 years later).

- **32:9-13** - he prays to YHWH, reminding Him of the promise at Bethel.

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob wrestling with God**

Genesis 32:22ff

Proceeding to the land, at night, “a man wrestles with him until the breaking of day” (24).

The “man” touches his hip socket and it dislocates. Jacob keeps wrestling and refuses to let go “until You bless me.”

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob wrestling with God**

Genesis 32:22ff

HE said to Jacob, “what is your name?”

He answers, “I am Jacob” (remember what that name means - Jacob comes face to face with himself)

THEN, his name is changed to Israel (“Prince with God” or “Struggle with God”)

- Israel is again blessed

- **32:30-31** - Israel names the place, Penuel - “the face of God”

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob finally meets Esau**

Genesis 33ff

He finally meets Esau and all is ok. Esau's enmity is gone and he has accepted his place and gladly meet Jacob. God HAS blessed Esau also.

- Jacob, slowly proceeds to Canaan.

Jacob's Life

- **Jacob finally meets Esau**

Genesis 33ff

We conclude our examination of Jacob's life for now with **Gen. 35:1**,
Then God said, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there"

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- **Turn to God no matter where you are!**
- Jacob had serious flaws in his life - but he trusts God. While that does NOT mean approval of sinful qualities, it shows that you CAN return to God. You can trust Him and in time draw closer to Him. That IS our goal.

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- **Names mean things**
- When we are told someone is “named” something, learn its definition. That will help you remember that character/occasion

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- **Do we turn to God with our needs?**
- Jacob, fleeing Esau turns to God (finally?). That is what his prayer was about - **1 John 5:14, James 5:13-16**

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- **God works in His time**
- 20 years in Haran before Jacob returns home.
This is NOT the first time we have seen this.

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- **God does NOT need our help**
- WE find instances of trying to help God here (as before) - Jacob's deceit, etc. Typically, that does NOT help the situation

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- Do we find ourselves “wrestling with God”?
- IF so, we need to ask, WHY? Is it our stubbornness refusing to submit, or are we striving with Him to HELP US! A determination that you WILL NOT QUIT no matter what happens?

Lessons from Jacob's Life


- **Can you call yourself, “Bethel”?**
- Bethel means, “House of God”.
Is God dwelling in you?
John 14:23, Galatians 2:20, etc.

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- **Are you willing to take God seriously?**
- The “anchor points” of Jacob's life are as he is alone fleeing to Laban and later as he returns and wrestles with God.
- **UNTIL we take God seriously, we will NOT make the necessary changes in our life!**

Lessons from Jacob's Life

- **There is something to be said about family**
- Jacob caused some of the problems with his partiality, Why did Leah feel “unloved”, etc.
- Husbands need to love their wives and take their role to protect them **SERIOUSLY! Ephesians 5:25-29**



What have you learned from
Jacob?

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The Patriarchs (5)

Let us pray!