

INTRODUCTION

1. The Grt Commission in Lk 24:46-47. Proclaim message of gospel grace to all the nations. God's purpose for nations since creation & fall.
2. God's method: He deals w/ individuals & particular people in order to effect His purpose for mankind & entire cosmos.
  - i. AbCov - in you all families of earth blessed
  - ii. Jacob: blessed by Isaac & Lord [vision of ladder].
3. Jacob returns to land; threat of death [Esau] - Gn 32:24-30 Review
  - i. v29 *He blessed him* - we'll see explicit ref to *the nations* in a moment.
  - ii. 1st use of *Israel* in Script. The -el = God. Isra- = strive, rule. Jacob is "prince who prevails w/ the God who rules him in sovereign grace."
  - iii. Jacob perseveres while Lord upholds him. Smitten *thigh* cld = *loins*. Is this an event like Ab's sac of Isaac? Promised seed is delivered from death - Esau & God's *touch*?
  - iv. *Israel*: God's elected one who God wounds in order to bless. Gn 3:15 Overcome as slaughtered sheep - R 8:36-37. Cross - resurrection
4. Lord repeats name change & *blessing* - the nations: Gn 35:1-15

1st: The Lord's Call and Jacob's Cleansing - Gn 35:1-4

1. Sacrifice = provision given to Adam after fall - altars of patriarchs.
- 02. v1 - *Bethel* ["house of God" - dream of ladder] - 30yrs ago?
3. v2-3 - preparation - Jacob speaks as tho it is his idea? Dispose of idols
4. v5 - Jacob hid/buried them under oak near Shechem.

2nd: Jacob Travels and the Lord Terrifies - Gn 35: 5-6

1. v1 Jacob feared Esau - now divine *terror* protected him as he traveled so that none *pursued* Jacob. Cf. Ex 15:9-18
  - i. The Lord's presence w/ us is our protection.
  - ii. Lord protects as Jacob leads his family to worship at God's house.
2. v6 - *Jacob* [old name] at *Luz* [old name]. Names now to be changed.

3rd: The Lord Renames and Re-blesses Jacob - Gn 35: 7-15

- 01. v6 - *Bethel* - vision of ladder, angels & Lord - Gn 28:12-22
  - i. Jacob's God is God of Ab: given Ab's promises [v14 = Gn 12:3]

- ii. God promises to bring Jacob back & Jacob tithes & worships.
- iii. When Jacob returned, Lord wrestled w/ him - changed name to *Israel* [32:24ff]. Now Lord reinforces name change to Israel
2. v7 - Jacob builds altar & renames: *El-Bethel*- emph on *El* - renewed realization of God having protected him from death.
03. v8 - [odd insertion] reminded of flight from Esau & Rebekah mother - never saw son sin tricked Isaac; no honorable burial. Deborah was closet that Jacob got to his mom. Jacob is blessed but sin has its repercussions.
4. v9 & v13 movement of wrestler [chpt 32] = theophany. *He blessed him*
  - i. 32:29 - *He blessed him* - 35:10ff reveals the content of *bless*
5. v10 = repetition = important. El rules & old Jacob is no more: idols buried, washed, at altar; limping but alive by grace w/ new purpose.
6. v11-12 Ab's blessing w/ vocab of Gn 1:28; nations & land/seed.
  - i. *I am God Almighty* - El-Shaddai. Ex 6:2-3
  - ii. *Be fruitful & multiply*
  - iii. *A nation & a company of nations... & kings* = Jacob's seed. Gn 17:1-8
    - a. Abraham: father of many nations, kings. *Israel* - royal lineage.
    - b. Biological - tribal, national Israel.
    - c. Eschatological- *royal priesthood* [1Pt 2:9]; Rv 1:5-6
    - d. God's original purpose in creation comes to fulfillment in glory!
- iv. Gn 35:12 - land likewise has dual signif - Heb 11:16.
7. v13-15 *the place where He had spoken w/ him* [3x]. Emphasis on words wh/ point to Sabbath blessing. Worship as those blessed to live w/ Lord.

Applic #1: The Patriarchs Inform our Identity as the NCov People of God

1. We are the "Jacob-to-Israel" people of God: sinners given grace: worship the Lord Jesus Christ as our God.

Applic #2: What is Your Name?

1. Your new name - Rv 2:17. Jesus' new name - Rv 3:12.
2. We are new men in Christ. Let us strive live up to our name by the pre-serving grace of the God w/ whom we wrestle by faith.