

PATRIARCHS – FOUNDING OF ISRAEL (JACOB) (GENESIS 25-35)

INTRODUCTION:

Thus far we have studied the general history that covers the first eleven chapters of Genesis, expanding on four major events - the formation of the earth, the fall of man, the flood, and the foundation of nations. In the remaining chapters of Genesis, God gives us the story of how His chosen nation is established. It began with the first patriarch Abraham who passed his blessing on to his God-given son Isaac who in turn blesses his youngest son Jacob. This is God's plan but was achieved through treachery and deceit. That is not something God can bless. Jacob has some lessons God is going to teach him in the establishment of the nation of Israel.

I. HIS DIRECTED CONCEPTION - GENESIS 25:19-26

- A. God told _____ and Rebekah that Jacob would rule over Esau.
1. Isaac prayed for a son. - 25:21
 2. God gives them _____.
 3. God tells of His plan to bless the younger. - 25:23
- B. The struggle between the _____ is seen in the life of Esau and Jacob.

II. HIS DECEITFUL

_____ - CHAPTERS 25-27

- A. Jacob was deceitful in his dealings from the very beginning.
- B. Jacob tricks his brother into trading his birthright.
- C. Jacob deceives his father into blessing him. - 27:18-24
1. His deceit was encouraged by his _____. - 27:5-10
 2. Esau is _____ at his brother's ways.

III. HIS DELIGHTFUL CONVERSION – CHAPTER 28

- A. Isaac sends Jacob to Laban to find a _____ . - 28:1-2
- B. Jacob is on the run from his brother.
 - 1. He travels about _____ from Beersheba to Bethel.
 - 2. He lies down to rest and is given a vision from God.
- C. Jacob meets with God and is a changed man.
 - 1. There was a ladder ascending into the heavens.
 - 2. The ladder pictured a great _____ between sinful man and a holy God.
 - 3. The ladder is a picture of _____.
- D. God's voice proclaims the blessings first promised to Abraham and reaffirmed to Isaac are now made to _____.
 - 1. A _____ of land - 13
 - 2. A multiplied _____ - 14
 - 3. A manifold Presence -15
- E. The change
 - 1. He feared God. - 16-17
 - 2. He _____ God. - 18-19

IV. HIS DEVOTED COMMITMENT – CHAPTER 29:1-20

- A. Jacob approaches a _____ after a 450-mile journey.
- B. Jacob sees Rachel and helps her water the sheep.
 - 1. This could be a picture of his _____.
 - 2. He agrees to work for _____ to earn her hand in marriage. - 29:18
- C. Laban deceives him and gives him Leah instead of Rachel.
 - 1. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also _____.
 - 2. Yes, he was forgiven, but you will still reap for things done.

- D. Jacob agrees to another 7 years of service that he might marry Rachel.

V. HIS DIVIDED COMPASSION - CHAPTERS 29:21-30:24

- A. Not only did Jacob have two brides (Leah and Rachel), but they each brought into the home a personal handmaid.
 - 1. Leah brought _____.
 - 2. Rachel brought _____.
- B. Jacob loved Rachel and was stuck with Leah.
 - 1. Leah got her spot by deceit and rued the day.
 - 2. God brought her some vengeance. - 29:31
- C. The struggle in the home was further exasperated by the fact that Leah and Rachel both submitted their handmaids to Jacob for childbearing.
 - 1. These 4 wives bore 12 boys and 1 girl unto Jacob.
 - 2. They became the _____ of Israel.

VI. HIS DETERMINED COMBAT – CHAPTER 32

- A. Jacob is _____ to God. - 31:3,13,18
- B. Jacob is visited by _____. - 32:1-2
 - 1. Shortly after he moves in obedience, Jacob is visited by angels.
 - 2. He has seen angels before - _____ years ago when he was traveling the other direction.
 - 3. This visit was likely just God saying to him, “I am with you.”
 - a. He had conflict with his father-in-law Laban.
 - b. He had concern about meeting his brother.
- C. Jacob is visited by God.
 - 1. Jacob was _____.
 - 2. Jacob is _____. - 32:24
 - a. This was a physical struggle with a spiritual outcome.

- b. He had to come to the end of himself before God would bless him.
- 3. _____ was able. - 32:25
 - a. God touched the hollow of his thigh.
 - b. By this, God brought Jacob to the end of himself; Jacob gave up the fight.
- 4. Jacob acquiesced. - 32:26
 - a. At last, his futile efforts are surrendered.
 - b. His plea to be blessed is acknowledgment of Who he was wrestling with.
- 5. God _____ . - 32:27-29
 - a. God blessed him.
 - b. God changed his name.
 - 1. Jacob means “_____”
 - 2. _____ means “One who has power with God.”

VII. HIS DEVOTION CHECKED - CHAPTER 35:1-15

- A. God had called him back to Bethel.
 - 1. He first called 10 years earlier. - 31:13
 - 2. Back when God called him to Canaan, God said, “I am the _____.”
- B. Jacob calls his family to join him in _____ to God. - 35: 2-5
 - 1. He removed the _____ gods.
 - 2. He removed the old _____.-
- C. Jacob builds an altar at Bethel. - 35:6-7
- D. God blesses him there. - 35:9-13

VIII. HIS DEPRESSED COUNTENANCE – CHAPTER 35:16-29 & 37:31-35

- A. Jacob experiences great _____.-
 - 1. His old nurse _____ - 35:8
 - 2. His beloved _____ Rachel - 35:16-20
 - 3. His father Isaac - 35:27-29

B. Sorrow is not always a punishment but often for spiritual growth.

1. God is shaping his servant for all he has for him to do.
2. Jacob's story (along with his 12 sons) continues for the rest of Genesis.