

# **Genesis 33-37**

**Jacob, Esau, and  
Joseph**

# Review of Jacob

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- Personally – a selfish, grasping deceitful person.

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- Personally – a selfish, grasping deceitful person.

- Stole his brother's first-born blessing through deceit.
- Leaves home at 77 with his brother Esau wanting to kill Jacob.
- Arrives at his uncle Laban's and begins to reap what he had sowed.
- Stays with Laban for 20 years.
- At God's command, Jacob returns to Canaan.

# Review of Jacob

- At 97 years of age, Jacob is still self-centered and not in a right relationship with God.
- God corners Jacob at the brook Jabbok.
- God has to cripple Jacob before Jacob is ready to confess his sinful character.

# Review of Jacob

- God changes Jacob – gives him a new name, a mark of his spiritual new birth: Israel = “Let God rule”
- God is merciful and loving. He will do whatever is necessary to give a person every chance to repent and get right spiritually with Himself.

# Review of Jacob

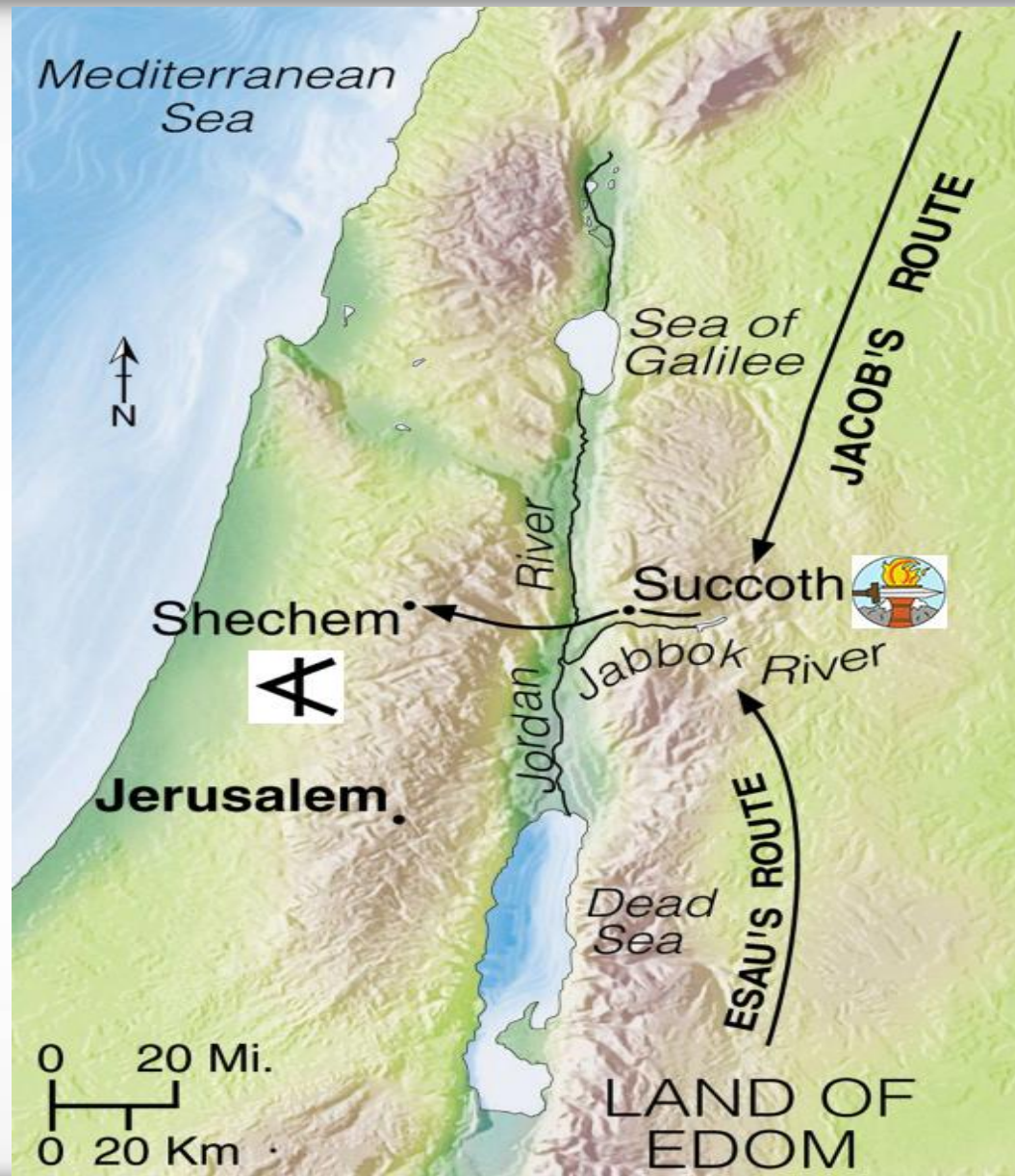
- God blessed Jacob with a new revelation of God – “I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.”

# Genesis 33

- Jacob meets with Esau.
- For Jacob, it is a fearful and a “careful” reunion;
- Esau receives Jacob’s “presents” and peace is established between them.
- Jacob settles in Shechem, a town founded by Hamor, a Hittite.









Shechem

Succoth

Penuel

Bethel

Ephrath

Hebron

Seir

Genesis 32-37

# Genesis 34

- **Gen 34** – Shechem, Hamor's son and called a "prince," defiles Dinah.
- Simeon and Levi kill the men and loot the town, taking all the herds, children, and wives of the murdered men for themselves (34:25-29).



# Genesis 35

- **Gen. 35** – God sends Jacob to Bethel and puts “a great terror upon the cities which were around them” (35:5) so they did not pursue Jacob.
- God renews the Abrahamic covenant with Jacob.

# Genesis 35

**Genesis 35:10-12** And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. <sup>11</sup> And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and

# Genesis 35

multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. <sup>12</sup> The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."

# Genesis 35

- **Gen. 35:19** – Toward the end of chapter 35, Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin.
- She is buried near Bethlehem.



# Genesis 36-37

- **Gen. 36** – The “toledoth” (generations – descendants) of Esau.
- **Gen 37-50** (Story of Joseph) – the “toledoth” of Jacob – focusing on Joseph (37:2)

# Joseph 37-50

- Genesis 37 unfolds the destructive dynamics of a family that knew the true and living God and yet sinned against Him and each other by what they said and did.
- The presence of Joseph in the home didn't create problems so much as reveal them.

# Joseph 37-50

- We will consider the destructive forces at work in this family, forces that God in His grace will overrule for their good.
- Where sin abounded, grace abounded more (Rom. 5:20)

# Joseph 37-50

- Joseph (17 yrs) is son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife.
- Jacob unwisely shows his favoritism for Joseph – visible symbol – a varicolored tunic (37:2)
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 37:3** Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his

# Joseph 37-50

- sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.
- Parental favoritism – Isaac showed favoritism toward Esau; Jacob toward Joseph.
- This always causes resentment and animosity.

# Joseph 37-50

- Joseph's responsibility is shepherding the flocks with his brothers, working as an assistant with the sons of Bilhah (Dan & Naphtali) and Zilpah (Gad & Asher).
- Joseph reports to Jacob about his step-brothers wrong behavior. (37:2)

# Joseph 37-50

- Some interpreters portray Joseph as a “tattletale” for bringing back *a bad report about* his brothers.
- However, the Joseph account has some of the characteristics of wisdom literature.

# Joseph 37-50

- Joseph is presented in a good light, not because he was perfect, but because the narrative is showing how biblical wisdom rules.
- This historical account portrays Joseph as faithful to his father in little things, even though unpopular.



# Joseph 37-50

- As a result, Joseph will eventually be given authority over greater things.
- **We learn from Jesus recorded in Luke 16:10;**
- "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

# Theological Truths

- Watch as the hand of God is evident in every scene, ruling and overruling the decisions people make.
- Watch how God builds a hero, and in the end saves a family, and creates a nation that will bring blessing to the whole world.

# Theological Truths

- Working unseen in the background is the covenant-making God who always keeps His promises!
- As you read Gen. 37-50, notice the similarities between what happens to Joseph and what happened to Jesus.

# Theological Truths

- Although the New Testament does not call Joseph as type of Christ, there are amazing parallels between Joseph and Jesus.
- Both are loved by their father.
- Both are obedient to their father.
- Both are hated and rejected by their own brethren.

# Theological Truths

- Both are falsely accused and unjustly punished.
- Both are betrayed and sold for money.
- Both are finally elevated from the place of suffering to a powerful throne.

# Theological Truths

- Both ultimately provided salvation for people facing death.

A major difference between Joseph and Jesus is:

- Joseph was only reported to be dead.

# Theological Truths

- Jesus actually gave his life on the cross and was raised from the dead in order to save us from our sins and give us newness of life.

# A Question

- Have you truly repented of your sins and invited Jesus into your heart and life as Lord and Savior?



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