

Genesis

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Trust Our Mediator—Life is scary. But we can trust Jesus. He has won our freedom and secured us peace with God. We have *nothing to fear!*

Repent of Our Idolatry! We keep slipping back to relying on other lesser gods. When will we realize (and remember) that they can't save us?!

Take It to the King. Whatever you are nervous about, take it to Christ. Whatever delights you, take it to Christ. He is the King of all.

Notes:

The Life of Faith—Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of *Hebrews* was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
July 21st, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 31: 1 – 55

Aramean Standoff

1. Jacob's Family Hostility Reaches the Breaking Point (1-21).
2. We Need a Mediator (22-55).
3. Jesus Provides Real Peace, Not Just a Cease-Fire.

We've been seeing just how broken Jacob's family is in both their home-life and work-life. They are a mess. Yet God is faithful to them and protects them from themselves and from Laban. We can trust God to continue to care for His people despite our idolatry. He calls us to repent from false worship and trusting in ourselves to trust Him entirely because Christ has come as our Mediator and established our peace.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 9: 11 – 15

Entering the Holy Place Together

1. Christ's Priestly Offering Completed Our Redemption.
2. Christ's Blood Has Cleansed Us.
3. Christ Ushers Us into His Presence to Rejoice Together.

Christ's work as our High Priest is perfect and complete. We are redeemed through His work and washed in His blood and that gives us confidence to enter the most holy place with Him. There we will not only experience relief from all our fears, but perfect and eternal delight in relationship with Him and one another.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Ever reach the point where you just couldn't take it any more? In this passage Jacob and his wives have reached that point. Laban has tricked them and bullied them one too many times. Yet in God's grace it actually works toward their good. Jacob steps up as the man of the house and takes action. And the rest of the family pledge themselves to him and his God.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 31:1-55; First Timothy 2:5-6**. DISCUSS, How do family dynamics drive us to the gospel? How does God provide? How do they twist it? Can you relate? How? How does Christ establish the work of our hands? PRAY thanking God for Christ as our mediator.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 9:11-15**. DISCUSS, How does Christ usher us into the most holy place? Why? PRAISE Christ for being our ultimate High Priest.

Monday

READ **Genesis 31:1-21**. DISCUSS, Why do Jacob and his family leave? How do you handle dysfunctional patterns in your family? How can we trust Jesus? PRAY for God to show us how Christ's mediation has secured our peace. PRAY for our neighbors to know this peace.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 31: 22-32**. DISCUSS, Why does Laban pursue them? Is Jacob in danger? What does it mean to trust Christ in the midst of real danger? How does God protect Jacob? EXTEND Christ's grace to your neighbors, coworkers, and family members. PRAY, "Lord, forgive us for ways trust other things more than You. Teach us to trust You fully and completely."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 31:33-42**. DISCUSS, Does Jacob have a right to be angry? Why or why not? What do you do when someone else has wronged you? How can we trust Christ in these situations? PRAY, Ask God to overwhelm us with the absolute confidence of Christ's mediatorial work on our behalf.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 31:43-55**. DISCUSS, What is this meal all about? How would you characterize Laban and Jacob's relationship afterwards? What is good about that? What is not so good? How does that relate to our relationship with God? PRAY, "Jesus, teach us to trust You alone in our relationship with You."

Friday

READ **Genesis 31:1-55**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning from this passage this week? PRAY, Lord thank You for loving us so fully in Christ.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Genesis 32:1-32**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area.

First Timothy 2:5-6

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."