

Lesson 3: Jacob and Laban

Central Point: Faith that does not take 'No' for an answer

Esau hated his brother because of his deception and its success, he resolved to murder him; only delaying until a sufficient time after the probable near death of his father Isaac. Rebekah, informed of Esau's intent, advised Jacob to flee to her brother Laban in Haran. Obtaining Isaac's consent by saying that he wished Jacob to marry one of his kinswomen and not a daughter of Canaan. Isaac blessed Jacob again and sent him away.

- Hebrews 11:20, *"By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future"*
- **Please Read: Genesis 27:41-28:5**
- It is calculated that Jacob was 77 years old when he fled
- Joseph was approx. 39 years old when Jacob went to Egypt- he was 130 years **Gen. 47:9**
- **Please Read: Genesis 28:10-15**
- Jacob's Ladder in Hebrew is translated "staircase"

On his journey to Laban, he stopped at Luz for the night and was given the vision of the staircase and the ascending and descending angels. God confirmed to him there, the promises given to his fathers and promised him protection on his journey and a safe return to his home.

John 1:51, "Jesus then added, 'I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

- The vision of angels ascending and descending speaks of the ministry of angels
- **Question: "What role do angels play in your life today?"**
- **1 Kings 19:5-8**- angel ministered to Elijah with food and drink
- **Psalms 91:11**- God gives His angels charge over us
- **Matthew 26:53**- Jesus could have called on 12 legions of angels to rescue Him
- **Luke 22:43**, *"An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened Jesus"*

Psalms 103:20

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Hebrews 1:14

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

In recognition of the divine dream, Jacob called the place Bethel, which means "House of God" and made a vow dedicating to Jehovah a tenth of all God gave him- **Genesis 28:10-22**.

Jacob Serves Laban

- **Please Read: Genesis 29:1-30**

Arriving at Haran, Jacob met Rachel, Laban's daughter, by whom Jacob's coming was made known to her father. After a month, Laban inquired what wages Jacob desired for his services and he asked for Rachel on the condition of seven years' service.

- Laban deceived Jacob, as per custom of the land the oldest daughter gets married first
- So Jacob had to agree to another seven years of labor for Rachel
- Between Leah, Rachel & their maids- the 12 sons of Jacob and one daughter were born
- After 14 years for his two wives, Jacob was enticed for 6 more years to gain wealth
- **Question: "Why do you think that Laban wanted to hang on to Jacob for so long?"**
- **Please Read: Genesis 30:25-30**
- All those in covenant with God were very wealthy
- **Job 1:3**, *"He was the greatest man among all the people of the East."*
- **Gen 13:2**, *"Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold."*
- Concerning Isaac... **Please Read: Genesis 26:12-14**

A Great Lesson on Faith

In **Genesis 30:31-36**, Jacob states his wages; he took out of Laban's flocks all the speckled, spotted & dark lambs and goats for his wages.

- **Please Read: Genesis 30:37-43**
- **Romans 4:17**, Jacob exercised faith- called those things that be not as though they were
- **Gen. 31:10-13**- God led Jacob, called for what he wanted, spotted sheep and got it
- Jacob prospered, in spite of Laban changing Jacob's wages 10 times- **Genesis 31:7**
- Pr. KJV 8:12, *"I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions"*

Deut. 8:18, "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today."

Jacob Struggles with God

- Jacob leaves Laban and sets out for Canaan, but Esau is on his way with 400 men
- **Please Read: Genesis 32:24-28**
- **Hebrews 11:6**, comes to mind- Jacob's determination to receive God's blessing
- Jacob's name is changed to Israel which means "He struggles with God."
- **Question: "Why do you think God wrestled with Jacob?"**
- **Genesis 35:10-13**- God renews the Abrahamic covenant with Jacob