

Recap

Jacob met God and was promised blessing, including both wealth and multiplied descendants.

He traveled to Aram and married Laban’s two daughters, Rachel and Leah.

Laban ripped off Jacob for 20 years, but God blessed Jacob by giving him “all that belonged to our father.” (vs. 1)

And now... God is calling Jacob to return to Canaan, the promised land

Spiritual Leadership

A Big Change – Jacob has grown from a passive and bitter man to an active spiritual leader in the home. It centers around him recognizing the blessing of God and seeking to obey God’s voice. (vss. 1-3)

Compare Genesis 30:15 to 31:5-13.

Jacob’s example

v. 5,8-12 –Recognizes God’s faithfulness

v. 6 –Demonstrates integrity in his life

v. 12 –Gives vengeance and anger to the Lord

Depending on the promise is the mechanism for his personal transformation

Genesis 28:15 “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

What are God’s promises to us in Christ?

- ☐ We forgive, because promises us forgiveness
- ☐ We are patient, because he promises to bear with us
- ☐ We strive for integrity, because he is pure and promises us a pure future
- ☐ We love, because he loved us and promises us his love
- ☐ We are generous, because he has promised to provide
- ☐ We exercise faith in him, because he has promised faithfulness to us

To the degree you find yourself in Christ, depending upon his promises, that is the degree to which you will experience the transformation in your life like Jacob does.

Our Part in the Promise

God’s Command, Jacob’s Obedience

vs. 13 – God calls upon Jacob

“At Bethel, Jacob had vowed that if the Lord protected him and brought him back to his homeland, the Lord would be his God and he would worship there... God has so obviously protected him outside his homeland that to return is obligatory on one who has made such a vow and has received a guarantee of even greater blessing in the future. With this powerful argument, Jacob concludes his plea to his wives.”
– Gordon Wenham

Questions for Personal Study

1. What part of Jacob’s transformation is most interesting to you? (Most surprising, beautiful, etc.)
2. What can you learn from the patience that Jacob demonstrated in inheriting the promise?
3. What are you depending on for your own personal growth in Christ?
4. Are you fulfilling your part in obeying Christ? How?