

“Jacob Sent to Laban” (Genesis 28:1-22)

For the week of October 3, 2021

Read Genesis 28:1-9

Observation

What was the specific direction given to Jacob by his dad Isaac?

What was the blessing given to Jacob by Isaac?

There are two other characters given in this passage. Who is Laban? Who is Bethuel?

Interpretation

Isaac's blessing of Jacob mirrors the blessing God gave to Abraham. Read Genesis 17:1-8 and describe the blessing given by God to Abraham. How would Jacob secure this blessing if he is being sent to a foreign land? How would Jacob interpret this blessing by his father?

Esau takes a wife from his Uncle Ishmael instead of a Canaanite woman. Was Esau's motive in this to receive a blessing from God? If yes, do you feel God would bless him? Why or why not? If not, what do you think was his reasoning?

Application

Ephesians 1:3 says that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings. List below as many blessings as you can.

Now let's look at each of the following passages and identify some of the many blessings given by God:

Ephesians 1:4 –

Ephesians 2:5; John 1:12 –

Ephesians 1:6 –

Ephesians 1:7 –

Ephesians 1:8-10 –

Ephesians 1:13 –

Read Genesis 28:10-22

Observation

Describe Jacob's dream in verses 12-15.

What are the vows made by Jacob in verses 20-22?

Interpretation

What does the ladder from earth to heaven signify? What does the movement of the angels signify? Now read John 1:51. What was Jesus' point in this verse?

When Jacob awakened from his dream it was with fear and surprise (verses 16-17). Was this a good response (read Proverbs 1:7)? What is the "fear of the Lord" and how should that fear drive our lives? How does the fear of the Lord bless us (read Proverbs 19:23, 14:26-27)?

Jacob's vow in verses 20-22 is conditional. Why would he make this conditional? What is your impression of that vow (for example is it reasonable or unreasonable, sincere or cynical, legitimate or illegitimate)? Explain your answer. How do we make conditional promises to God today? Is this approach good or bad and why?

Application

How does this story tell us about the ways God operates in human lives?

Which of the following ways has God spoken to you in your life? Describe this and share in your community group.

- Dream or vision
- Word of God
- Event
- Person
- Holy Spirit
- Other