

Gn Pt 63-Throwing Out a “Fleece”

Before the Lord (Gen 28:1-21)

>>>>We're in vs-by-vs study of BkofGn

>>& we've been studying story of Jcb&Esau

*How Jacob stole Esau's blessing

*Hw Esau then plotted to murder Jcb

*& hw Reb urged Jcb to “get out Dodge”

>>>>We learned some great bib truths

[IF MISSED LST 2 MSGS—CD/DWNLD]

>>>Today—gonna move on & see wht

happens...as Jcb flees Esau's anger

>>>Talk ab wht diff it makes fr our lives

[READY?]

I- PASSAGE GEN 28

A.V. 1-“So Isaac called Jacob & blessed him & commanded him: ‘Do not marry a Canaanite woman. Arise & go to Padam-aram, to the house of Bethuel, yur mother(Reb's) fthr. & frm there take a wife for yourself (who knows & loves the Lord)”

1. We know frm Ugaritic texts tht

“Padam-aram” was just another

name for “Haran”--Reb's hmetwn

2. MAP—shw U whre Jcb was headed

- B. V. 10-“Thn Jcb left Bersheba & set out for Haran. & he came to a certain place, where he stopped fr the night. & he took one of the stones of the place & put it under his head & lay down to sleep.”
- C. V. 12-“& he had a dream in which he saw a ladder resting on the erth, with its top reaching into heaven. & the angels were going up & down on it.”
- D. V. 13-“& behold, the Lrd stood at the top & said, ‘I am the Lrd, the Gd of yur fthr Abr, & the Gd of yur fthr Isaac. I will give U & yur des’s the land upon which U are lying.’”
- E. V. 14-“Moreovr, yur des’s shall be like the dust of the erth & U shall spread out to the **W** & the **E** & the **N** & the **S**. & all the pples on earth will be blessed thru U & yur offspring.”
- F. This is the cov Gd made w/Ab inGn12
 1. Whch Gd passed on to **Isac** inGn26
 2. & whch Gd now passes on to **Jcb**
 #1-Possession of the PL
 #2-A large number of desc’s

#3-Frm his line, a blessing to wrld

*We knw frm NT =Mess (LJC)

G. V. 15(Gd)-“& behold, I am with U, & I will keep U wherever U go, & I will bring U back to this land.”

H. V. 18-“So Jacob arose early in the morning & took the stone tht he had put under his head, & set it up as a pillar, & poured oil on it, & called the name of the place ‘Bethel’ [Heb: the house of Gd].”

[OK-SO FAR, SO GOOD-NOW WATCH]

J. V. 20-“Thn Jcb made a vow, saying, ‘If Gd will be with me, & will watch over me on this journey I am taking, & will give me food to eat & clothes to wear, & will bring me back to my father’s house in safety—THEN—the Lrd will be my Gd.’”

K. It’s clear here in Gen 28—tht Jcb had **not** yet given his life to Lrd

1. **BUT**--he makes a “**deal**” w/Gd...

2. Tht if Gd will protect him/provide fr him/bring hm bck safely to PL

3. Thn Jcb wld srnder life to Lrd

L. & this is *precisely* what happens

1. Gn 31:13 (in dream in Haran 20yrs later)-“I am the Gd of Bethel, where U anointed a pillar & made a vow to Me. Now arise, & leave this land & return to the land of your birth”
2. Gn 33:18-“So Jcb came[SAY]safely to the town of Shechem, in the land of Canaan-THIS WAS DEAL-right?”
3. Gn 35:2-“Then Jcb said to his family ‘Come now, let us go to Bethel & I will make an altar there to Gd, who answered me in the day of my distress & has been with me wherever I have gone.’”

M. From this point on—Jcb was a man whose life...was totally given to Gd

II- SO WHAT?

A. We call what Jcb did here in Gn 28 “putting out/throwing out a fleece before Lrd”

B. WE GET THIS PHRASE...FROM STORY OF GIDEON IN JUDGES 6 (in OT)

C. Gideon was a godly man--living during a very ungodly x in Israel’s history

D. Jud 6:14-“The Lrd said to Gideon, ‘Go

& deliver Israel from the hand of Midianites...Surely I will be with U.”

E. Jud 6:33-“Thn all the Midianites & the Amalekites & othr eastn ples joined forces & crossed ovr the Jordan River & camped in the Valley of Jezreel”

1. Valley of Jezreel = heartland of Is

2. **MAP**—cldn’t leave them there!

F.V. 36-“So Gid’n said to Gd, ‘If U indeed will save Israel by my hand as U hve spoken—behold, I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece, & all the ground dry, thn I will know tht U will save Israel by my hand, as U hve said

G. V. 38-“& it was so!”

H. V. 39-“Thn Gideon said to Gd, ‘Please do not be angry wth me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time, make the fleece dry & the ground covered with dew’”

J. V. 40-“& that night, Gd did so! Only the fleece was dry, while all the ground was covered with dew.”

K. Jud 7:1—"Then Gideon & his men rose early in the morning & camped by the Spring of Harod; & the camp of the Midianites was just north of thm in the valley."

L. & if U read the rest of Jud 7—Gideon defeated Mid's just as Lrd had prmised

M. SUMARZE: Here we see *Gideon* mking a "deal" /w/Gd just like *Jacob* did

1. SO IMPT: in **both cases-plse notice**:

2. Tht once Gd kept His end of deal...

3. Jcb & Gideon **obeyed** Gd *right away!*

[DO WE ALL SEE THAT?]

SAY: Lon--I've always heard tht "throwing out a fleece" lke this is not a good way to discern Gd's will/mke a salv decsn

*Tht doing this is an **act of unbelief**

*Tht Gd won't honor or answer it

A: Well obviously—that's not true!

*He answered it **ONCE** for Jacob

*& **TWICE** for Gideon

N. Gd did the same thing *fr Ab's servnt*

1. In Gn 24—Ab sent servant back to

Haran to find a godly wife fr Isaac

2. V. 13-(Servnt at Haran)-"O Lrd,

- I'm standing by this spring of wtr
3. V. 14-"May it be, tht whn I say to a girl, 'Plse let dwn yur jar tht I may hve a drink,' & *she* says, 'Drink, & I will draw wtr fr yur camels too,' let *her be the one whom U have chosen* for yur servant Isaac."
 4. AB'S SRVNT "**throws out a fleece**"
 5. V. 15-"& bfre he had even finished praying, Reb came with her jar"
 6. V. 17-"& the srvnt hurried to meet her & said, "Please give me a little water to drink from yur jar.""
 7. V. 19-"& aftr she had given him a drink, she said, 'I'll draw water fr yur camels too.'"

[BADDA BING—BADDA BOOM!!]

8. So Reb took the srvnt to her house
9. & the srvnt *told the story* to Reb & her whole fmily-ab his "fleece"
10. V. 57-"Thn Reb's father & brother askd her, 'Will U go wth this man? & she said, 'I will go!'"
11. REM: Reb met Ab's srvnt less thn 24 hrs before this!

*Yet once she heard how Gd had
made His will known by
keeping His end of “fleece”...

*Just like Jacob & Gideon...

*She **obeyed Gd right away!**

SAY: “So Lon--hve U ever used a **fleece?**”

ILLUST: I used “fleece” **re: Gd’s reality**
whn askd hm to heal Noah of **mange**

APPL: Gd did—& I gave life to J **tht wk!!**

ILLUST: I used “fleece” **re: Gd’s will** whn
I asked Brenda to marry me

*I: “Gd, if right wmn--**family approve**”

*Poppa: “We like **her** bttr thn we lke **U!**

APPL: So I married her--**40 yrs ago!!**

ILLUST: Coming to be pastor at MBC

*In April 1980, teaching Greek &
Hebrew at CBS—but knw Gd

wanted me to be a pstor smewhre

*But I had no idea **WHERE !!**

*Heard tht pastor at MBC resigned

*I: “If U want me at MBC...have Bill
Poston ask me if I’m interested”

*I went to see him—**he did!!**

*To Butch: “I’m sure U’re right—but
if I don’t go to MBC, I will be out

of Gd's will!" 35 yrs ago!!

O. Folks—here's what I wnt us to under

P. Msg tdy is not ab thrwng out fleeces

Q. The msg tdy is abt obeyng Gd

1. Whn Gd answr'd Jcb's fleece in Gn28
Jcb obeyd Gd... & gave life to Lrd!

2. Whn Gd answr'd Gid's fleece in Jd6
Gid obeyed Gd... & led his troops
out to face the Midianites

3. Whn Gd answr'd ser's fleece in Gn24
Reb obeyed Gd & left home to go
marry Isaac!

4. Whn Gd answr'd my fleeces ab salv
/mrrg/Chr service)--I obeyed Gd

CONCLUSION

>>> So wht's the one sentence summary:

>> No mtr how Gd shows us will..whther
*Fleece/pryr/Bible/circum's/advice

*Once He does...the critical issue...is
tht WE OBEY HM—instantly & fully

>>> Jer 7:22—"Thus says the Lrd of hosts,
the Gd of Is: 'I did not speak to yur
fthrs, or command thm on the day I
brot thm out of Egypt, concerning
burnt offerings & sacrifices.'"

>Those cmmnds came mnths ltr at Mt. S

>>Jer 7:23-“But this is wht I cmmanded thm: [SAY] OBEY ME, & I will be yur Gd & U will be My pple”

>>>Jer 7:24-“But they did not obey; they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts, & went backwards instead of forward.”

INVITATION--PRAYER

Sme of us as blvr's hre tdy=like these Is's

*We've not been obeying Gd

*Sleeping/adultery/lust/prayerless
refuse to forgive/malice/gossip

*& we've been going “backwards” in
our walk with Gd

Some of us as non-blvr's= like Is's too-

*We've refused to come to Christ

*& we've been going “backwards” in
our whole life

>>>>Jer 26:13-“Now therefore, amend yur ways, & obey the voice of the Lrd;

& theLrd will change His mind ab the
misfortune He's pronounced agst U."

*Non-blvr—"misfortune"=eter in hell

*Blvr—"msfortune"=(Hb12)discipline

If surrender to Chrst—see ple dwn front