

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Studies in Genesis

Surprises for Jacob

Lesson 11

Genesis 28-29

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

November 12, 2017

Bible Stories - Narrative

- ▶ Narrative - Poetry - Didactic (teaching/sermons)
- ▶ True stories, with selective details
- ▶ Variable “pace”
- ▶ More than merely moral lessons
- ▶ Purpose of the Bible:
 - Revelation of Jesus Christ – His Person and Work
 - Revelation of the life of faith

Genesis 1-11 – Setting the Stage

- ▶ Creation – a sovereign creative act of God
- ▶ The fall
- ▶ The *protevangelium* – Genesis 3:15
- ▶ The depravity of the human race
- ▶ The flood
- ▶ The hope – an intervention by God
 - Abel, Enoch, Lamech, Noah
 - The ark
- ▶ The failure of wrath
 - Post-flood assessment – Genesis 8:21-22
- ▶ The Divine Covenant – Genesis 9:8-17
- ▶ Curse on Canaan
- ▶ Building a tower into heaven

Genesis 12-27

- ▶ The Promise (Covenant) with Abraham (12:1-3,7)
 - A great nation
 - Blessing
 - All nations of the earth to be blessed through Abraham
 - The Seed
- ▶ The life of Abraham
 - The life of faith
- ▶ The life of Isaac
 - The work of God – a crooked path (Ecclesiastes 7:13)
- ▶ The life of Jacob
 - The fading Promise

Surprises for Jacob (Genesis 27-28)

- ▶ Jacob sent out of the land (28:1-9)
- ▶ The LORD meets Jacob at Luz (28:10-22)
- ▶ Jacob meets the family of Laban (29:1-14)
- ▶ Jacob is deceived (29:15-30)
- ▶ Leah, the unloved wife (29:31-35)

Jacob Sent Out of the Land (28:1-5)

- ▶ The deception by Rebekah
 - Rebekah: “Arise, flee to Haran.”
 - Isaac: “Arise, go to Padan-aram.”
- ▶ Isaac clearly states the blessing of Abraham (28:3-4)
 - Blessing
 - A company of people
 - The land of your sojournings

God Almighty – El Shaddai

- ▶ Shaddai (alone)
 - 30 times in Job
 - 10 times in Gen 49:25, Num (x2), Ruth (x2), Psalm (x2), Isaiah (x1), Ezekiel (x1), Joel (x1)
- ▶ El-Shaddai – God Almighty (x6)
 - 17:1 – God speaks the Covenant to Abraham
 - 28:3, 48:3 – Isaac speaks the Covenant to Jacob
 - 35:11 – God speaks the Covenant to Jacob at Luz
 - 43:14 – appeal for the preservation of Simeon and Benjamin
 - Ezekiel 10:5 – a sound like the voice of God Almighty speaking
- ▶ Romans 1:20 – His eternal power and deity
- ▶ Exodus 6:3 – God Almighty v. YHWH
- ▶ May God Almighty bless you

Esau Despises the Blessing (28:6-9)

- ▶ Seeks blessing (favor) of father through marriage
- ▶ Did not truly seek the blessing – no spiritual ability
- ▶ “. . . immoral or godless person like Esau” (Heb 12:16)
- ▶ No place for God Almighty - El-Shaddai

The LORD Meets Jacob (28:10-22)

- ▶ Jacob's dream
 - The ladder to heaven where the LORD stands
- ▶ Promise to Abraham and Isaac repeated (28:13-14)
 - The God of Abraham and Isaac
 - The land promised to Jacob and his descendants
 - Blessing to all families of the earth through Jacob and His descendant(s)
- ▶ Promise of blessing to Jacob (28:15)
 - I am with you and will keep you
 - I will bring you back
 - I will fulfill My promise to you (28:3-4)

The LORD Meets Jacob (28:10-22)

- ▶ Jacob's response
- ▶ The LORD is in this place and I did not know it
- ▶ This is an awesome place, the very gate of heaven (John 1:51)
- ▶ Renames Luz to Bethel (“House of God”)
- ▶ Set up a stone pillar – built no altars until his return to Canaan
- ▶ Offered a tenth of all the LORD gave him

Jacob's Vow

- ▶ If God will do as He says . . . then the LORD will be my God
- ▶ Two visitations at Bethel (Genesis 28 and 35)
- ▶ Hosea 12:4 – God found him at Bethel – after he wrestled with God
 - Genesis 48:3 – Jacob identified the 2nd Bethel visitation as significant
 - Genesis 35:9-12 – God blessed Jacob and named him Israel
- ▶ After 1st Bethel – no change in behavior – no communion with God for 20 years.
- ▶ After 2nd Bethel – Jacob is a different man

Jacob Meets Laban (29:1-14)

- ▶ Surprising “coincidence” – Jacob meets with Rachel
- ▶ Laban ran to meet Jacob, his sister’s son
- ▶ Jacob stayed 1 month

Jacob is Deceived (29:15-30)

- ▶ The bearer of the blessing and ancestor of Jesus Christ becomes a servant
- ▶ Jacob's agreement with Laban for Rachel – 7 years
- ▶ Laban deceives Jacob and give him Leah as his wife
- ▶ The agreement amended – 7 more years
- ▶ Jacob marries Rachel

Leah, the Unloved Wife (29:31-35)

- ▶ The LORD opened her womb; Rachel was barren
- ▶ Reuben – “See, a son” – the LORD has seen
- ▶ Simeon – “He heard” – the LORD has heard
- ▶ Levi – “Attached” – desiring her husband
- ▶ Judah – “praise” – I will praise the LORD
- ▶ The LORD honored Leah – Priesthood & King

Surprises for Jacob

- ▶ The invisible hand of God
- ▶ The process is as important as the ending
- ▶ The Author of salvation perfected through suffering (Hebrews 2:10)
- ▶ Leah, a woman of faith