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
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 though 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