

Genesis Ch. 28

- Rebekah plans on getting Jacob safely away from Esau. Sending Jacob to Laban to obtain an acceptable wife. Rebekah intends to send for Jacob after a while, but that never happens.

V: 1 Isaac calls Jacob and blesses him: Seemingly his resentment or bitterness is short lived, he is reconciled to God's will.

- Charged: (H 6680) . tsavah; to order, command, instruct, charge.

“Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.”

- A direct prohibition of intermarrying with the people of the land in which they were to be sojourners.

[Revelation Ch. 2 – letter to the church in Pergamos:](#)

Revelation 2:14 “... I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel,...”

Jude 11 “... the error of Balaam...”

2 Peter 2:14-15 “Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: ¹⁵Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;”

Numbers 22-23

- i. Children of Israel in the plain of Jordan, near Jericho.
- ii. King Balak – sore afraid.
- iii. Sought out prophet Balaam to curse Israel.
- iv. Can't do it, God has blessed them.
- v. You can cause them to bring God's curse upon themselves.

- Balaam's counsel led to the nation of Israel taking wives from among the Amalekites and others which led directly to idol worship – spiritual fornication.

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

V: 2

V: 2 Instead: go to “**the house of Bethuel**” – “go to the house of God” to get a wife.
Go to the family of God.

- Note: “**take thee a wife...**” Not “wives” plural, or a couple two or three, “**take thee a wife...**” Singular.
- This seems to be in line with God’s will, because that is what God gave to Adam, one wife: “**bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh – one flesh**”
- I can’t adequately explain the difference between God’s perfect will, and His permissive will and how they can exist or function – because I don’t understand it myself.
- As this scenario plays out, Jacob sees Rachel, sets his heart on her, but is eventually tricked into taking Leah as his wife. He eventually gets Rachel as well, but then he also gets their two respective hand maids.
- So now he’s got 4 wives.
- The first time we see marital strife in the Bible is after Abraham goes into Hagar; in essence taking on another wife – even though it was Sarah’s idea – it led to strife and heart ache between all of them.
- As we will soon see, there will be strife again because Jacob has 4 wives, instead of one.
- Note also that Judah, the line through whom the Lion of the tribe of Judah will eventually descend is the 4th son of Leah.
- Jacob knew what the word was about “a wife”, but his desire, his emotion over ruled what he knew to be true.
- He may have rationalized: because he was cheated, robbed – whatever – he didn’t accept what God had given him – he didn’t see God’s hand in it – and he went onto get 3 more wives.

V: 1-2 Summary:

1. Isaac takes Rebekah’s advice.
 2. Isaac blesses Jacob: as he was blessed, not as he blessed Jacob before.
 3. Isaac commands / charges Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman.
 4. Go to the house of God – our family.
 5. Marry one of Laban’s daughters.
- Jacob & Laban’s daughters would have been 1st cousins.
 - Marrying a godly woman, outweighed any genetic considerations; choosing the Spirit over the flesh.
- God is working in Jacob’s life, differently than both Abraham and Isaac. Isaac was told to stay in the land and let Eliezer bring the bride to him. Jacob is told to go and get a bride. (Philippians 2:12-13)

Philippians 2:12-13 “¹²Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

- We have to make allowances for those around us that God is not going to work in all of our lives in exactly the same way, He can't be crammed into a box.

V: 3-4 Isaac confers the blessing of his father Abraham upon his son:

- “**And God Almighty bless thee...**” It's no longer that “I may bless thee...”
- Isaac seems to be back on track with a right perspective in God's will.

V: 5 Jacob obeys and starts out on this 500 mile trek.

- Thus Jacob begins his own walk with the Lord, he's now on the road to his own personal relationship with God.

1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 “¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

- There is never any mention of God's grandchildren – we have a direct relationship with God or not – no surrogate relationship.
- Jacob is now entering into that relationship.

V: 6-7 Esau hears about Jacob being sent away, the blessing, and the commandment not to marry a Canaanite woman, and to marry from within the family.

- Esau sees that his father is now fully willing and committed to blessing Jacob, and that there is no deception involved.
- Esau saw that Jacob was obedient to his father and his mother.

V: 8-9 Esau realized how displeasing his wives were to Isaac & Rebekah – particularly in light of Jacob’s obedience to their wishes.

- Was this the first time he figured this out? Communication, spiritual leadership, discipleship.

Ephesians 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

- Trying to remedy this he goes to Ishmael’s family – not discerning – spiritually discerned – he makes an outward gesture which seems pretty empty to those who have spiritual discernment.
- Kind of like closing the barn door after the cows got loose.
- Two dead end lineages that we don’t hear much more about.

V: 10-15 Jacob is on his way to Haran, he’s now in Bethel, near Shechem, which is about 70 miles or 2-3 days away where he started in Beersheba.

- This is the same place where God first appeared to Abraham. (Genesis 12:6)

Of course this is not a coincidence:

Jeremiah 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

- Jacob sets up a small camp and falls asleep, and dreams.
- In his dream, Jacob sees a ladder – the Hebrew word is “cullam” used only this one time.

Ladder (H5551). cullam, sool-lawm'; a stair-case, ladder.

Just one ladder, just one way to heaven.

John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

Jesus told his disciples:

John 1:51 “And he saith unto him, verily verily, I say unto you, hereafter ye shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

- The Lord appears to Jacob in his dream – a 1st for Jacob.
- God speaks to Jacob, re-affirming the promise / covenant given to Abraham, Isaac, and now with Jacob.

V: 14 – “seed” singular; speaking of Jesus!

- Jacob is alone, except for the Lord who comforts him.

- This is probably answered prayer on the part of Jacob.
 1. Jacob has heard all the stories and accounts, the Biblical history up to this point.
 2. Jacob knew that God had yet to speak or appear to him personally.
 3. Jacob is probably truly alone for the first time.
 4. Jacob had desired spiritual things, the birth right, the blessing – even to the point of using deceit to obtain them.
(Kind of like having a desire to know God, and stealing a Bible so you can read about Him...)
- Now he truly knew in his heart that God was looking after him personally. Having heard God personally speak the blessing specifically to him in this dream – a dream come true!
- Obviously this speaks to a personal relationship.

V: 16 Jacob associates that particular piece of ground with the presence of God. The house of God, the gate of Heaven.

- Realizing that he didn't leave God behind at home with Mom and Dad.

Testimony: 1st got dialed into the Word of God, I was hearing it from the lips of my pastor, Pastor Chuck at CC Costa Mesa.

1. Wouldn't leave, wouldn't miss a Sunday. Wouldn't go to Arizona.
2. Went to Arizona and was blessed to hear God speak through another man.
3. God isn't limited to one place, one church, or one man.

Psalm 139:7-10 “⁷Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

V: 17 Jacob was afraid, he felt like he was in the presence of God, that he was on Holy ground!

Psalm 68:35 “O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. Blessed be God.”

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Isaiah 6:5

V: 18-19 Jacob rises up early the next morning, without hesitation.

- He sets up a pillar and pours out / sacrifices oil upon it.
- He names it “Bethel” – the house of God.
- It was in the house of God that Jacob met God for the 1st time.

Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Psalm 73: 1-17 (Turn to)

- Being in the house of God, in His presence – lends perspective, we see things the way they are.

V: 20-22 Jacob is still learning, just learning.

- It seems like Jacob makes a conditional vow to God: “if” you will do this, “then” I will do that.
- “If” could also be “since” or “because”.

“If” (H518). 'im, eem; if; when; whether, surely, doubtless, while, saving, verily, [since](#).

- If it was “if” / conditional, it would appear that Jacob was waiting to see if God would keep His word or not – in essence doubting.
 1. His action of sacrificing and praising God are inconsistent with this.
 2. There isn’t any rebuke or correction from God on this account.
- Jacob offers to God a tithe / 10th of all that he has or will have.
- This appears to be an expression of Jacob’s gratitude and love, an expression of worship to God.
- Knowing by faith that God would provide for all of his needs.
- Later, tithing became a part of the Mosaic law (Leviticus 27:30, Numbers 18:21,24) but was voluntary at this point.
- It wa an expression of thanksgiving – just the same as it should be today.

Tithing: disclaimer

1. As your Pastor, I don't know who gives what, or not. Our Elders amongst other things stand in the gap to protect me from that, and I don't have a clue.
 2. I'm not speaking because of any particular need within our church, God has and is meeting all of our needs.
 3. As we study through the Bible, book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse we will run across every topic that you can think of, and that is where we are today.
 4. God has called me to speak His word in it's entirety and I'm not allowed to skip any subject.
 5. Tithing is not a pre-condition to salvation – we are saved by grace through faith.
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- Wouldn't go to any church that wanted me to tithe.
- Got saved, eventually ended up at CC Costa Mesa and simply didn't talk about it.
- No pressure, but also no information unless they came across it in a study.
- Finally at a men's retreat a pastor addressed it rather directly and I was so relieved and blessed, because by that time I was ready and needed to know.

- Before all of that when I first got saved, I attended church and one of the things I really enjoyed was the worship.

- I didn't participate, I just sat and listened and it was really good, and I really enjoyed it.

- One day, the Lord put it on my heart to actually participate in the worship, to just worship Him from my heart – and as I did I was fulfilled in a way that I never had been before, it truly blew me away.

- I immediately realized that I had been missing out on something that God wanted to bless me with.

- Tithing is very much like that, it is an act of worship, it is a step of faith, and important part of our faith.

- It is a giving of a part of our lives that is often kept back, kept private, or kept away from God.

- The issue isn't how much, it's how.

Luke 21:1-4 “¹And He looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. ²And He saw also a certain poor widow casting thither two mites. ³And He said, of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: ⁴For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury / poverty hath cast in all the living that she had.”

- As an act of worship the most important factor in giving / tithing is the state of our heart, our motive for giving.

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

Paul teaching about the gifts of the Spirit:

Romans 12:8 “... he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity;...”

- Principle of “First fruits” – the first, the best – trusting that the Lord will still provide for our needs – but making God our first priority.

Proverbs 3:9 “Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”

Exodus 23:16, 19 “First fruits of their labor, first fruits of their land.”

- Not just financially, but of our time and our talents, whatever we have to give unto the Lord.

Malachi 3:10 “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

- When both Abraham and Jacob are seen offering a tithe to God, it is from the abundance of their hearts, from having a revelation of God in their lives, and is a responsive act of worship. That is how it should be for us as well.