



The Beginning

Lesson 14: Jacob Receives The Blessing

(Genesis 27:1-30:43)

Isaac was growing old. He could not see very well and called his older son (Esau) to him. He told Esau to hunt and prepare a meal for him so that he could bless Esau before he died. Isaac's wife, Rebekah heard Isaac speak to Esau in this way.

Since Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau, she told Jacob what his father had said. Then, they planned a way they could trick Isaac into believing that Jacob was Esau and steal Esau's blessing. Since Esau was a hairy man and Jacob's skin was smooth, Jacob was afraid his father would feel his skin and know it was Jacob. So, Jacob was told to bring two young goats and his mother would prepare Isaac a meal. The hair from the goats would be used to cover Jacob's hands and the back of his neck so that he would feel hairy like Esau. He also put on his brother's clothes so that he would smell like his brother.

Jacob then took the food his mother prepared to Isaac and said that he was Esau. When Isaac wanted to feel whether it was really Esau, Isaac felt the hair and said that he felt like Esau but sounded like Jacob. But, when Jacob lied and said that he was Esau, Isaac blessed Jacob.

When Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, Esau came back from hunting and brought food to his father. When Isaac heard Esau, he was very upset. He said that Jacob had tricked him, and he had already blessed Jacob. Now, Jacob would be the one to receive all the blessings God had first given to Abraham and then to Isaac – and Esau would serve Jacob!

Esau hated his brother for how he had stolen the blessing and said that he would kill Jacob after their father died. But, when Rebekah heard Esau's plan, she sent Jacob to her brother (Laban) who lived in Haran (Padan Aram), to stay with him until Esau was no longer angry. Before he left, Isaac blessed Jacob and commanded him to marry one of Laban's daughters, saying that God would bless him and give him the blessings of Abraham.

One night, as Jacob was going to Haran, he used a stone as a pillow and went to sleep. He dreamed that a ladder reached from earth to Heaven and the angels of God were going up and down on it. At the top, the Lord God spoke to Jacob and said that He would bless Jacob in the ways He promised to bless Abraham (i.e. in making his descendants a great nation, in giving his descendant the land of Canaan, and in blessing all people of the earth through him). When Jacob woke up, he took the stone he had used as a pillow and set it up as an altar, poured oil on it, and called the place “Bethel.” He promised that if God would be with him and keep him, then the Lord would be his God and he would give a tenth of what he had to God.

As Jacob continued to travel, he came to a well in a field and met and kissed Rachel, one of Laban’s daughters. When Laban heard of Jacob’s arrival, he ran to meet him. When Laban asked Jacob what his payment for working should be, they agreed that Jacob would serve Laban for seven years for his younger daughter (Rachel). She was very beautiful and he wanted to marry her instead of her older sister (Leah).

After working for seven years, Laban tricked Jacob. Instead of giving Rachel to Jacob as wife, he gave Leah to him. So, Jacob had to work another seven years for Rachel. Laban also gave Zilpah as a maid to Leah and Bilhah as a maid to Rachel. But, Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah.

Jacob had many children (12 sons and 1 daughter). Leah’s children were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and a daughter named Dinah. Bilhah’s children were Dan and Naphtali. Zilpah’s children were Gad and Asher. Finally, Rachel was able to have a son and named him Joseph (later, she will also have a son named Benjamin). Joseph was Jacob’s favorite. And, Jacob also became very wealthy with many sheep, servants, camels, and donkeys.

Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: CS32

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Memory Verse:

“And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 28:13-14).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: