

Gen lec 15

We will now begin lecture 15 on Genesis.

The passage for today is ch 28

The subject of ch 28 is a vow

Vow

1st, Isaac send Jacob to Paddan Aram.

1-5

2nd, Esau marries a daughter of Ishmael.

6-9

3rd, Jacob sleeps on pillows of stone

10-11

4th, Jacob sees a revelation at Bethel

12-15

5th, Jacob wakes from his sleep and names the place Bethel

16-19

6th, Jacobs vow

20-22

6th, Jacobs vow

20-22

In todays passage, we have Jacob fleeing to Paddan Aram to the household of his uncle in his mother's side.

On his way there, he spends the night at Bethel and sees a ladder in a dream.

And he heard God speaking

There Jacob made three vows to the Lord.

read v. 1: So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman.

Isaac sends Jacob to his uncle in his mother's side.

He command Jacob not to take a wife from the Canaanites but to go to Paddan Aram and marry one of Laban's daughters.

There is a specific reason why Jacob left his parents to go to Laban.

The first reason is to avoid marrying one of the Canaanite women and marry one of his uncle's daughters.

The second reason Jacob went to Laban was to flee Esau who was planning to kill him.

Third reason Jacob fled was because he received the blessing of the firstborn over his brother.

This is the primary reason why he left for Paddan Aram, because he tricked his father and brother to receive the blessing of the firstborn.

In receiving this blessing of faith Jacob is being persecuted and fleeing.

When we live according to our Christian faith, the world will persecute us

read v. 3: May God Almighty**[b]** bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples.

Isaac told Jacob that God Almighty would bless him.

And he said that all the blessings that God gave to Abraham will also be given to Jacob and his descendants.

The most important part of the blessing given to Abraham was the promise to send the Christ.

Therefore, the promise of the blessing in Christ is continuing from his grandfather Abraham, to his father, Isaac, and to Jacob himself.

read v. 6: Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram to take a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he commanded him, "Do not marry a Canaanite woman,"

Esau had married one of the Hittite women from Canaan.

And when he realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father he went to Ishmael and married one of his daughters.

But Ishmael's daughters are not of the lineage of faith.

So Esau in the end were not able to comply with his parent's wishes.

He didn't marry in the faith.

read v. 10: Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran.

Jacob fled to harran.

read v. 11: When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

He arrived in Bethel and the sun had set.

What kind of path is the way to Bethel?

Because Jacob is fleeing from persecution because of his act of faith in taking the blessing of the firstborn this is the path of refuge.

He is taking refuge from the persecution inflicted by the one born of the flesh.

2 Peter 1:4

Also, this way is a road never before traveled by Jacob, distant, and dangerous.

Ps. 119:67

This is also a lonely road.

He has no one to depend on.

No one to help him on the way.

And this is an unpredictable road.

whether he will arrive at his uncle's safely,

or what dangers await him is unpredictable.

What must have Jacob felt then?

What kind of faith did he have?

He was walking alone but he had God as his refuge and faith that depended on Him.

2 Cor. 6:2

In like manner, when we face difficulty in life we should lean wholly upon God and seek Him.

read v. 12: He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

Jacob saw a ladder in his dream.

He received a revelation of God through this dream

During the Old Testament time period, many people received God's revelation through dreams, visions, or by God's voice.

The ladder here symbolizes Jesus Christ.

The ladder touching heaven teaches us that we can only reach heaven through Jesus Christ.

It shows that we can reach heaven and God only through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6

John 14:6, says Jesus is the way, truth, and the Life.

Jesus is the Lord who leads us to God.

He is the intermediary between mankind and God.

In this verse, it also says that the angels of God were going up and down the ladder.

Angels went up and down.

This shows that in Jesus Christ there is movement from man to God.

John 1:51

In John 1:51, it says that heaven opened and the angels of God went back and forth.

Through Christ, God's love and salvation comes down to mankind.

And the prayers of people go up to God through Christ.

1 Tim. 2:5

This revelation of God to Jacob shows that the blessing of Christ was given to him by God.

in v. 13-15 there is God's voice and promise.

What is the promise and blessing of God here.

First, God promised to give all the land of Canaan to Jacob and his descendants.

Second, God will multiply the offspring of Jacob.

This points to the many offspring of faith that will be born through Christ.

3rd, God promised to be with Jacob,

to walk with him.

Ps. 23:4

Is. 41:10

Is 43:2

Matt 28:20

God is Immanuel

He is God with us.

4th, God promised to bring Jacob back to the land of Canaan.

What words of encouragement for Jacob! how he must have been comforted.

He is going to his uncle's place by himself in fear.

It is a lonely and difficult road.

At this time God appeared and comforted him, promising to be with him and help him.

He promised to bring him back safely.

read v. 16: When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

Then Jacob realized that God was in the place he rested.

He had thought that God was present only in his father's household.

But through this he came to know that God was everywhere and not confined to one place.

God fills the heaven and the whole universe.

Jer. 23:24

There is no place our God is not or cannot go.

Our God loves us, guards us, and leads us in the right way.

read v. 17: He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Jacob saw the ladder reaching to the doors of heaven.

He saw the doors of heaven open.

He realized that God was in that place, that it was a temple of God.

read vv. 18-19: Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel, [e] though the city used to be called Luz.

Jacob set up a pillar using the stones he had used as a pillow and poured oil on it.

The fact that Jacob set up a pillar with his pillow of stones shows that he had made a decision.

It is the faith to resolve not to depart from his vow made in Bethel.

It is the decision, to love God, depend on him, and communicate with him continuously.

Also, the pouring of oil symbolizes him setting apart the house of God.

In Old Testament times a person who was set apart was anointed with oil.

men holy and set apart were anointed with oil.

Lev. 8:10

8:30

Ex 30:25

Bethel means "house of God"

vv. 20-22: Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear **21** so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord^[f] will be my God **22** and^[g] this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Jacob made three vows with three conditions.

Acts 18:18

We must fulfill the vows we have made to God.

Ps 15:4

15:4

Deut. 23:21

If we have made a vow to God we must keep it even when it is hard.

Hannah made a vow before God and kept her promise.

Therefore, she was blessed more than she gave.

What were the three vows that Jacob made?

First, he said that Yahweh would be his God.

He is saying that he would look to Yahweh as his God.

He will walk with God.

That he will only serve Yahweh.

Josh 24:15

2nd, he said that he will make the pillars he set up into a house of God.

What he is saying here is that he will set up the temple of God

The temple of God will be established upon faithfulness to God's word

This temple building is a response to the revelation he has received.

Matt 16:18

Jesus said that he would build the church on Peter's acknowledgment of gospel truth.

This is also his commitment to live a holy life.

Rev 11:1

It means that he will strive to live a holy spiritual life.

Eph 2:20

Heb 5:12-14

5:12-14

Therefore, holiness is the key.

It is receiving God as the Lord of my life

3rd, Jacob vowed that he would give back to God a 10th of all that he received.

He will give a tithe to God.

Tithe is giving back to God what belongs to Him.

Gen 14:20

Malachi 3:10

a tenth belongs to God.

Actually everything belongs to God.

Ps 24:1

24:1

says that everything on the earth and in heaven belongs to God.

Our life also belongs to God.

1 Cor 6:19-20

Jesus also commanded us to give the tithe.

Matt 23:23

We must realize that everything belongs to God and so return give the tithe with thanksgiving.

In this way, Jacob made these vows after waking from the dream.

Like Jacob let us seeks God's will.

and live a holy life.

and have faith to give back to God a tenth of what we have.

Now, we will begin the lec. on ch 29

ch 29

The subject of ch 29 is Jacob's marriage

1st jacob arrives in Haran

1-8

2nd he meets Rachel

9-12

3rd, Laban receives Jacob into his house

13-14

4th, Jacob works 7 years for Rachel

15-20

5th, Laban tricks Jacob and gives him Leah

21-26

6th, Jacob works another 7 years for Rachel

27-30

7th, Leah has 4 sons

31-35

In today's passage we have Jacob arriving at his uncle Laban's house and marrying two of his daughters.

read vv. 1-2: Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. **2** There he saw a well in the open country, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large.

Jacob safely arrived at his uncle's house.

This was due to God's grace and protection.

God had led him safely

28:15

He arrived at a well in Paddan Aram

This is a region where water is a valuable commodity

So in vv. 2-3 we can see that the well was covered by a protective lid.

So when giving water to the flock all the sheep are gathered together and drink at the same time.

read v. 9: While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherd.

Rachel was shepherding her father's sheep and had come to the well.

So fortuitously, Jacob met Rachel there.

read vv. 11-12: Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. **12** He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud.

Jacob through the long and difficult journey was overjoyed and was moved to tears in meeting one of his own relatives, Rachel.

read v. 13: As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things.

And Jacob finally came to Laban his uncle.

And his uncle Laban received him into his home.

read v. 15: Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."

Laban told Jacob to set his wages for work.

He was going to return payment for work received.

He wanted to remove any reason for quarreling later on.

At that time, Jacob said he would work 7 years for Rachel, Laban's daughter.

read v. 18: Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

Jacob loved Rachel so his wages was to work 7 years to receive her hand in marriage.

read v. 20: So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

Jacob loved Rachel so much that the 7 years seemed like a few days and passed quickly.

Because of his love for her he did not regard what he did as work.

Because he was in love he didn't feel any hardship and didn't notice the time pass.

But after v. 21, we see that on the night of marriage Laban gave his older daughter Leah to Jacob and not Rachel.

read v. 23: But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her.

On the night of marriage Laban brought Leah to Jacob.

When Jacob woke in the morning there was Leah and not Rachel.

His uncle had deceived him.

Jacob is getting payback for tricking his brother and father in the past.

He has reaped what he has sown.

read v. 27: Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

Laban told Jacob to work 7 more years for Rachel.

This is telling Jacob to serve without pay for another 7 years.

So Jacob came to work another 7 years for Laban.

But one man having two wives is a wrong thing to do.

God's principle for marriage is one man - one woman.

Because of his two wives, there was constant jealousy, envy, and enmity in Jacob's household.

Because he lived apart from God's created order his family could not experience the full blessing of God.

read v. 28: And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

Jacob thus received Rachel in return for his promise to work another 7 years for Laban.

so he worked another 7 years for Rachel.

So altogether he worked 14 years for his wives.

But the faithful thing for Jacob would have been to trust God and stick with Leah as his wife.

To repeat, if Jacob had faith in God and trusted in Him he would have married Leah only.

Lev. 18:18

read v. 31: When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless.

In this verse, God allowed Leah to have several sons.

in v. 32 Leah had Ruben.

This Ruben means "look a son"

Leah was not loved by his husband.

Leah thought, since I had a son my husband will love me.

in v. 33 she has a second son

She named him Simon.

Simon means "hears"

God hears our prayer

Leah had a 3rd, son.

in v. 34 she had a son name Levi.

Levi means to unite.

She named him hoping that she would be united with her husband.

read v. 35: She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah.[e] Then she stopped having children.

Lead had a 4th son.

She named him Judah.

Judah means "to praise"

Since she had four sons she will praise God.

In the passage today, Jacob arrived safely at his uncle Laban's house.

Jacob worked 14 years for two wives.

It was wrong for Jacob to get two wives.

He should have kept God's principle of marriage and just lived with Leah.

God had compassion on Leah and allow her to have 4 sons first.

We have lectured up to ch 29

we will begin the lecture on ch 30

The subject of ch 30 is prosperity.

1st, Rachel's maidservant Bilhah bears sons

1-8

2nd, Leah's maidservant Zilpha bears sons.

9-13

3rd, the two barded for their husband.

14-22

4th, Rachel has a son

22-24

5th, Jacob asks for his wages

25-36

6th, Jacob becomes prosperous.

37-43

In ch 30, Jacob accumulates many sons.

read v. 1: When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

Rachel couldn't bear any children she became jealous of her sister.

And she complained to her husband about it.

read v. 2: Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"

Only God can help in conceiving and bearing children.

Sarah said the same thing.

16:2

Rebekah said the same.

25:21

Hannah said the same

1 Sam. 1:15

God is in control of the fruits of the womb.

read v. 3: Then she said, "Here is Bilhah, my servant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and I too can build a family through her."

Rachel gave her servant Bilhah because she was not bearing children for her husband.

The culture at that time allowed a woman to give her servant in marriage to her husband to bear children for her.

But this is not of faith.

This is following the ways of the world.

It is following human ways.

Jacob could not appease Rachel and accepted her servant as his wife.

This is also not of faith.

read v. 5: and she became pregnant and bore him a son.

Bilhah became pregnant and had a son and named him Dan.

Dan means "to vindicate"

Bilhah conceived and had another son and named him Naphtali

In v. 8 she had Naphtali.

Naphtali means to contend.

Rachel had a competitive spirit against her sister.

This shows that Rachel lived in jealousy, envy, and in enmity with her sister.

read v. 9: When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

So Leah realized that she stopped having children and gave Zilpah her servant to Jacob as wife.

So Zilpah had a son and named him Gad.

Gad means "good fortune"

Zilpah had another son and named him Asher.

Asher means "happy"

So Jacob had 4 wives

And there was competition between the family members.

They envied one another.

They were not in the faith.

In this way, Jacob went to his uncle Laban and his faith began to fall.

read v. 14-15: During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

15 But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"

Ruben brought some mandrake plants.

Mandrakes are known to help women conceive.

So Rachel brought her husband for the mandrakes.

read v. 15: But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"

“Very well,” Rachel said, “he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son’s mandrakes.”

And Rachel said, “you can sleep with my husband tonight in return for you son’s mandrakes.”

Rachel had sold her husband for mandrakes that belonged to Leah’s son.

Here, Jacob is being disciplined by God for straying from God’s way of raising a family.

read v. 17: God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. **18** Then Leah said, “God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband.” So she named him Issachar.

Leah had a fifth son.

She named him Issachar.

Issachar means reward.

And she had a 6th son

His name is Zebulun

Zebulun means “treat with honor”

She wanted her husband to honor her and love her so named her son Zebulun.

read v. 21: **21** Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.

Leah had a daughter and named her Dinah.

Dinah means to “judge”

read v 22-24: Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive. **23** She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, “God has taken away my disgrace.” **24** She named him Joseph, **[h]** and said, “May the Lord add to me another son.”

Here, Rachel finally had a son, named Joseph.

Rachel had her first son Joseph.

Joseph means to “add”

Rachel wanted God to add another son besides Joseph.

When she finally had a son late in life her pride turned to humility.

Rachel was loved much by her husband.

Being loved as she was, if she would have had a son before Leah she would have been even more arrogant.

God had humbled her by making her unable to conceive.

God humbled her and then allowed her to conceive in her humility.

and from v. 25, Jacob began to gather his possessions from Laban.

But Laban realized that God blessed Jacob in whatever he did.

And Jacob continued to become more and more wealthy

read v. 37: Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches.

Jacob cut poplar, almond, and plane trees and exposed the white inner wood of the branches.

Then he set them beside the watering troughs.

So when the sheep went to drink water when giving birth, they would see these white stripes and give birth to young that were spotted.

So Jacobs flock continued to increase

But did the sheep become spotted and streaked because of Jacob’s crude method?

This is not why the sheep became spotted.

Jacob had again came up with a conniving plan.

But Jacob did not become wealthy because of of his plan.

His wealth was the result of God's blessing.

31:9-10

Even if Jacob had not used this conniving plan God would have still blessed him.

But Jacob used his deceptive ways only to strike his conscious with guilt.

He did not glorify God.

He forgot about God's blessing.

And he was not upright before his father-in law and brother in law

We do not succeed because of some method or plan.

God sends the blessing.

We have finished the led. on ch 30

This concludes the 15th lecture on Genesis.

Thank you.

