

## Genesis 28

### Scriptures:

#### Notes:

Jacob will be the focus of the next eight chapters of Genesis.

He has just schemed with his mother to get the blessing his father Isaac intended to give to his brother Esau. Esau intended to kill Jacob as soon as Isaac dies, and so Rachel decides it would be best if Jacob go to her brother Laban's home in Padan Aram.

Scriptures:  
2 Corinthians 6:14-16a - Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

Genesis 26:34-35 - When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. 35 And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

<sup>1</sup> Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and

1288 -

charged him, and said to him: “You shall not take

6680 -  
commanded

a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

Notes:

Under no circumstances was Jacob to take a wife from the pagan Canaanites. Just as his grandfather Abraham had done with his father Isaac, Jacob was to take a wife from his maternal grandfather's family.

The Canaanites a completely secularized society. They determined their behaviors based on what everyone thought was best. We also live in a secularized society. To be secular is to be free from religious influence. Many of the Canaanite peoples were also involved in false religions which involved the worship of demons.

The apostle Paul taught us that the secular or false religions and the religious do not mix (2 Cor. 14).

Esau's two Hittite wives were making life miserable for Isaac and Rebekah (Gen. 26.34-35).

Scriptures:

<sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel Notes:

<sup>J</sup> your <sup>R</sup> mother's <sup>♂</sup> father; and take yourself a <sup>J</sup> wife <sup>♀</sup>

from there of the daughters of <sup>♀</sup> Laban <sup>J</sup> your

<sup>R</sup> mother's <sup>♂</sup> brother.

Scriptures:  
Genesis 17:1-2 - When  
Abram was ninety-nine  
years old, the LORD  
appeared to Abram and said  
to him, "I am Almighty  
God; walk before Me and  
be blameless. 2 And I will  
make My covenant between  
Me and you, and will  
multiply you exceedingly."

3

“May God Almighty bless you,

And make you fruitful and multiply you,

That you may be an assembly of peoples;

6951 -  
congregation

5971 -

Notes:

Isaac seems to have had a spiritual  
awakening. He had tried to have his  
own way and give blessing to Esau  
and God overruled him and gave it to  
Jacob.

“He (Isaac) wanted to see Jacob  
married to a believer, and he wanted  
to see him walking with the Lord.”  
(Phillips, 1980) page 235

Isaac is acknowledging that Jacob is  
the rightful heir of the promises God  
made to Abraham and then to him.

‘God Almighty’ – ‘El Shaddai’  
reminds us of the covenantal  
promises made to Abraham (Gen.  
17:1).

Isaac is validating the transfer of the  
birthright to Jacob.

4 And give you the blessing of Abraham,

Notes:  
Isaac is identifying Jacob as the third patriarch.

To you and your descendants with you,

That you may inherit the land

In which you are a stranger,

4033 - sojourn

Which God gave to Abraham.”

Scriptures:

<sup>5</sup> So I<sup>♂</sup>saac sent J<sup>♂</sup>acob away, and he <sup>♂</sup>went to

Notes:

Padan Aram, to L<sup>♂</sup>aban the son of B<sup>♂</sup>ethuel the

S<sup>♂</sup>irian, the brother of R<sup>♀</sup>ebekah, the mother of

J<sup>♂</sup>acob and E<sup>♂</sup>sau.

Scriptures:

<sup>6</sup> Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent

Notes:

Esau was unrepentant regarding his apathy toward the things of God but he still wanted his father's blessing. To see his father blessing Jacob and not wanting him to marry a Canaanite woman may triggered an idea of how he could still get his father's blessing for himself.

him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife

from there, *and that* as he blessed him he gave

him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife

6680 - command

from the daughters of Canaan,"

Scriptures:

<sup>7</sup> and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his  
8085 – to heed

Notes:

<sup>R</sup> mother and had gone to Padan Aram.

Scriptures:

<sup>8</sup> Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan

Notes:

It is possible that Esau may have thought that the reason why he didn't the blessing from his father was because of his two Canaanite wives.

did not please his father Isaac.  
7451/5869 –  
displeasing/eyes



Scriptures:  
1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Mark 1:14-15 - Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

<sup>9</sup> So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the

daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of

Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives

he had.

Notes:  
Ishmael was Isaac's half-brother. It may be that Esau was trying to make up for the two Canaanite wives with a wife from his father's family. This is a carnal response to a spiritual situation and reminds us that the carnally minded cannot understand spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:14).

Esau may have thought, "Why travel for months to get to Padan Aram when I can go a couple of days to uncle Ishmael's home to get a wife that his father Isaac would approve of."

Esau could see that his choices were not pleasing to his father. Thought by adding a wife from his father's family that it would please Isaac. That is the carnal mind at work.

Some people hear the message of the gospel and acknowledge that they have offended a holy God and rather than turning from their wicked life, they add religion – believing that will make them right with God. Must turn away from your sins and obey God.

Scriptures:

<sup>5</sup>  
10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went  
toward Haran.

Notes:

Jacob had grown up in the home of a believer – his father Isaac. It would seem that up to this point Jacob has not had a personal encounter with the living God. That is about to change.

Children raised in Christian homes will not become believers just because their parents did. They must each have their own personal experience with God. It has been said that God has no grandchildren.

Scriptures:

<sup>5</sup>  
11 So ~~he~~ came to a certain place and stayed there  
  
<sup>5</sup>  
all night, because the sun had set. And ~~he~~ took  
  
one of the stones of that place and put it at his  
  
head, and ~~he~~ lay down in that place to sleep.

Notes:

Jacob was fleeing for his life because his brother was resolved to kill him for lying to get the blessing from their father Isaac. Jacob's pillow was symbolic of the life he would lead for the next twenty years.

Jacob is living out the consequences of not trusting God. What he would go through was both unnecessary and necessary. It was unnecessary because he could have avoided it if he had trusted God. It was necessary to teach him to trust God.

Scriptures:

John 1:43-51 -

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter **you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.**"

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

12 Then <sup>3</sup>he dreamed, and behold, a ladder <sup>2492 -</sup> <sup>5551 -</sup> was set

up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and <sup>7</sup>

there the <sup>A</sup>angels of <sup>Δ</sup>God were ascending and

descending on it.

Notes:

Jacob is about to learn that the God his grandfather and father worshipped wanted to be his God also.

Jacob also learned that there is a place called heaven. Not only is there a place called heaven but the ladder proves that it is accessible.

Jesus identifies Himself as the ladder (John 1:51). There is only one ladder (John 14:6).

First dream narrative in the Bible.

13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: “I

Notes:

The Lord is telling Jacob that the promise He had made to Abraham and then to Isaac He is now making to Jacob. The eternal unconditional promise of the God's relationship to him and his descendants and to the land.

*am* the Lord God of Abraham your father and the

God appears to Jacob, not when he has his spiritual act together but when he is fleeing from the consequences of his sin. This is God's grace. Everything God does is out of His grace not our worthiness.

God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give

to you and your descendants.

Scriptures:

<sup>14</sup> Also <sup>3</sup>your descendants shall be as the dust of the Notes:

earth; <sup>3</sup>you shall spread abroad to the west and the

east, to the north and the south; and in <sup>3</sup>you and in

<sup>3</sup>your seed all the families of the earth shall be

<sup>3</sup>blessed.

Scriptures:

15 Behold, I <sup>△</sup>am with you and will keep you <sup>5</sup>

8104 - guard

Notes:

From here on the Lord will be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

“Jacob was not seeking God – he was fleeing the consequences of his deception. He was not expecting grace. But grace was unleashed upon his soul – and with not a word of reproach.” (Hughes, 2004) page 360

wherever you <sup>5</sup>go, and will bring you <sup>5</sup>back to this

God’s grace was with Jacob and would continue with him for the rest of his life.

“God in His grace forgives us, but God in His government see to it that we reap what we sow.” Wiersbe – page 124

land; for <sup>△</sup>I will not leave you until I have done <sup>5</sup>

5800 – forsake,  
depart

what I have spoken to you. <sup>△</sup>”

Scriptures:  
Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said,

Notes:  
How quickly we forget that the Lord is always present wherever we are. Even when we are fleeing our own wrong choices, there God is!

No matter what your circumstances – good, bad, easy, hard, impossible, holy, wicked, wandering, or seeking – God is there in that place!

“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not

know it.”

Scriptures:  
Proverbs 1:7 -  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is

3372 -

3372 -

Notes:  
Jacob has had a personal experience with God. He is now a believer.

‘house of God’ = God’s presence  
‘gate of heaven’ = access to God

“The house (God’s presence) and the gate (access to God) are everywhere!” (Hughes, 2004) page 361

this place! This is none other than the house of

1004 -

‘afraid’ – good place to be (Prov. 1:7).

God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

8179 - door

8064 -

Scriptures:  
Romans 10:8-13 - But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach); 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took

Notes:  
'pillar' = public confession of his spiritual experience

the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a

pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

Scriptures:

19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but

Notes:  
'Bethel' = house of God

It wasn't the place itself that made it the house of God – it was Jacob's encounter with the living God.

the name of that city had been Luz previously.



Scriptures:

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be

5088 – a promise  
to God

Notes:

First occurrence of a vow in the Bible. A vow is a promise made to God.

Jacob is not using uncertain language. ‘If’ could be replaced by ‘since’. Since God is going to be with me He shall be my God. This is a confession of faith!

with me, and keep me in this way that I am going,

8104 - guard

and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

Scriptures:

21 so that I come back to my father’s house in

Notes:

peace, then the Lord shall be my God.

7965 – “salom”

3068 - YHWH

430 – ‘elohim’

Scriptures:  
Romans 5:5 - Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Genesis 14:18-20 - Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said:

“Blessed be Abram of God Most High,  
Possessor of heaven and earth;  
20 And blessed be God Most High,  
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”

And he gave him a tithe of all.

Psalms 16:11 - You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Exodus 33:14 - And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall

be God's house, and of all that You give me

1004 -

5414 -

I will surely give a tenth to You.”

6237 -

6237 -

Notes:  
“Jacob...promised the Lord that he would never forget two things. He would never forget God's place, and he would never forget God's portion.” (Phillips, 1980) page 238

Two signs of conversion and evidence that God's love has been poured in someone's heart ([Rom. 5:5](#)) is a love for God's house and a desire to be generous for the work of the Lord.

An Esau type asks, ‘What must I do to appease God?’ A Jacob type says, ‘This is what I will do because God is pleased to be my God!’

We can't say with certainty why Jacob chose ‘a tenth’ as the amount he would give to God. He does have the precedent of His grandfather Abraham with Melchizedek ([Gen. 14:20](#)). A ‘tithe’ = a ‘tenth’.

Signs of God's presence:  
Joy ([Psa. 16:11](#))  
Rest (refreshing) ([Ex. 33:14](#))  
Peace ([John 14:27](#))

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