



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Faith and God's Presence!

Genesis 28:1-22

Message #30 of 50 – S932

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@ Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Faith and God's Presence!

Genesis 28:1-22

Opening Comments

- Good morning – we will be in **Genesis 28** – but first, turn to **Psalm 139**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- King David wrote Psalm 139
- Anytime you are feeling a little down, you ought to come to this Psalm
- It will remind you of the intimacy of God's relationship with you
- **Psalm 139:13; 17-18**
- It can be very comforting to know just how well God knows you
- He knows everything about you – your questions, your doubts, your fears, your desires, your passions, your dreams, and yes, your sins
- During times like we are living in right now you can find peace and strength by remembering that God loves you just as you are
- Not only does He love you, but He wants you to know that He is with you
- Starting in verse 7 King David speaks by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit about the presence of God in the life of a believer
- **Psalm 139:7-12**
- God, our loving heavenly Father is everywhere present always
- But we may not always be aware of that
- Turn to **Genesis 28**
- In this chapter Jacob experiences the presence of God
- That encounter changes him
- God loves you just as you are but His plan for your life is that you would be like His Son Jesus **Romans 8:29**

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- The best life you can live is one that is continually being conformed to the perfection of Christ

- Let's pray and ask that we might be changed by God's presence this morning
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Faith and God's Presence!**
- In the previous chapter we saw the unsavory side of God's people
- Everyone knew God's will – Jacob was to be the one through whom the promises of Abraham would flow
- Isaac disregarded God's will – Esau was apathetic to it – Rebekah thought God needed her help – Jacob was okay with scheming and deceiving his father to get God's will
- Not a pretty picture of God's people
- Chapter 28 is a continuation of where we left off in chapter 27
- **Genesis 28:1-2**
- This is immediately after Jacob deceived his father into giving him the blessing
- There is no sign of rebuke – instead Isaac blesses Jacob
- Isaac realizes that he had tried to overrule God's will
- Has accepted that Jacob was the one who was supposed to get the blessing – It was God's will
- Go to Padan Aram for wife - There are two things going on here
- First, Rebekah found out that Esau intends to kill Jacob as soon as Isaac is dead for stealing his birthright (Genesis 27:41)
- Second, Esau's two Canaanite wives are making life miserable for Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 26:34-35)
- There is also a precedent in that is similar to how Rebekah came to be Isaac's wife (Genesis 24)
- And then Isaac blesses Jacob with a patriarchal blessing
- **Genesis 28:3-4**
- 'God Almighty' – 'El Shaddai' reminds us of the covenantal promises made to Abraham (Genesis 17:1).
- Isaac is acknowledging that Jacob is the rightful heir of the promises God made to Abraham and then to him.
- Esau appears to have been a witness of all this

- **Genesis 28:5-9**

- Jacob and his twin brother Esau were as different spiritually as they were physically – smooth-skinned versus hairy
- Jacob was a spiritual man who struggled with his carnal nature
- Esau was a carnal man who was blind to the spiritual world
- He witnesses the spiritual event of his brother receiving the patriarchal blessing and comes up with a carnal response
- He sees that his Canaanite wives are an issue for mom and dad
- So, he goes and gets a wife from his uncle Ishmael’s family
- It appears that he thinks this will please his father, maybe enough to get a better blessing
- 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.
- It doesn’t! Must turn away from your sins and obey God. **Mark 1:14-15**

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

- Carnal people cannot understand spiritual things **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.
- We shouldn’t be surprised when unsaved people do things that we know are contrary to God’s Word
- Esau will fade out of the scene until chapter 32 when Jacob is headed back from Padan Aram
- **Genesis 28:10-11**
- 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.
- Jacob had grown up in the home of a believer – his father Isaac.
- 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.
- It would seem that up to this point Jacob has not had a personal encounter with the living God.
- That is about to change.
- **Genesis 28:12-13a**
- One of the reasons we teach through the whole Bible is because we believe the whole Bible is about God and His plan to save the world through His Son Jesus
- We read and teach through the whole Bible because Jesus is on every page
- Turn to the gospel of **John 1**
- As Jacob sleeps with a rock for a pillow God meets with him in a dream
- Angels are ministering servants of God
- They go back and forth between heaven and earth, between God and people to do the work of God
- Jesus spoke of the same thing in John's gospel after Nathanael confessed that Jesus was the Christ
- **John 1:49-51**
- 'Son of Man' is a term that Jesus used 81 times in the New Testament to refer to Himself
- Daniel used this term to refer to the Messiah (Daniel 7:13)
- Jesus is the ladder – the connection between man and God – between heaven and earth
- Turn back to **Genesis 28**
- And contrary to others say – Jesus is the only ladder **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."
- God meets with Jacob in a dream and lets him know that angels are busy at work on his behalf
- What a comfort that would be to Jacob as he is fleeing his brothers wrath and headed toward an uncertain future
- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ than you too can rest in the knowledge that God is sending His ministering angels to work on your behalf

- The Lord then repeated the promise
 - **Genesis 28:13b-15**
 - In addition to the promises of the land, God promises to bring Jacob back into the Promised Land
 - **Genesis 28:16-19**
 - Jacob has had an encounter with the living God – maybe for the first time in his life
 - He still has a long way to go in his faith, but he is on the path
 - ‘house of God’ = God is present in this place
 - God is not some distant disinterested deity – He is right here
 - ‘gate of heaven’ = access to God in heaven
 - Heaven’s resources and abundance are accessible
 - Jacob responds with an act of worship – pillar and oil
 - Names the place Bethel = house of God
 - Then Jacob does something that seems to prove the immaturity of his faith
 - **Genesis 28:20-22**
 - It might be possible to interpret that if as ‘since = ‘Since God will be with me...’
 - More likely, saying, ‘If God does what He said, then I will...’
 - God is still working on Jacob
 - God will always do what He said, even if His people are slow to believe Him **2 Timothy 2:13**
- If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**
- Jacob is on a spiritual journey
 - God interrupted Jacob’s sleep to let him know that God was going to be with him the whole way there and back again
 - Each of us is also on a spiritual journey
 - And God would call each of us to go forward in faith believing that He is with us
 - Jesus said right before He left to go back to heaven **Matthew 28:20b** “...I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.
 - Jesus is always present with us as we walk the path of faith

- We grow in our awareness of His presence as we pray, seek Him in the Word, serve Him, as we connect with other believers, and as we give to His work
- As we close, three quick signs of walking in God's presence
- First – **Joy**
- A joyless Christian is not walking in God's presence **Psalm 16:11**
You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- Second – **Rest**
- We live in a restless world – we are refreshed as we walk in God's presence **Exodus 33:14**
And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
- Third – **Peace**
- We live in a time of conflict, division, fear, and godlessness
- All of those things will work to steal your peace **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.
- We walk with Jesus by faith and obedience to His Word
- Walk with Jesus and you will know His presence
- And His presence will produce joy, refreshing, and peace
- And the more you learn to walk in His presence, the more your soul will long for His presence – the source of joy, rest, and peace
- God is in this place, walk in His presence
- **Pray!**