

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

PERIOD TWO

THE PATRIARCHS - ISAAC AND JACOB

LESSON 8

Time	PERIOD TWO THE PATRIARCHS			
Main thought	THE MESSAGE OF FAITH IS FOUND IN THE LIVES OF THESE MEN			
Great men	ABRAHAM	ISAAC	JACOB	JOSEPH
Chapters that tell of each part	Genesis 12 to 23	Genesis 24 to 26	Genesis 27 to 36	Genesis 37 to 50
what this part tells about	Faithful friend of God. Father of a great nation. Job may have	Man of peace, Son of a great man. lived during	A Prince of God. this time.	Good man.

The Bible tells us more about Abram than it does about Isaac and Jacob. Yet, we can learn many lessons from the way God worked in the lives of Isaac and Jacob. Isaac and Jacob were chosen to be the early fathers of the nation of Israel. They were chosen because they had faith in the true and living God.

1. ISAAC

READ CAREFULLY GENESIS CHAPTERS 24 to 26.

A. Isaac's name.

Isaac means laughter. Both Abraham and Sarah laughed at the thought of having a child (Genesis 17:17; 18:10-12). Did God give the child this name to remind them that He can do what seems impossible? God made Abraham's faith strong by making him wait. God often does this to us. He reminds us that He can do the impossible things (Luke 1:37).

B. Isaac's obedience.

What did Isaac do that shows he was obedient to Abraham (Genesis 22:6-10)?

Did Isaac trust God for his life (Genesis 22:6-11)?

C. Isaac's marriage.

- **Abraham's servant.**

Abraham chose a servant to seek a wife for Isaac. (This servant is a good man to know.)
What did this servant do that shows he trusted God (Genesis 24:12-14)?

What did the servant do to show that he was faithful to Abraham (Genesis 24:33)?

- **Rebekah.**

How did Rebekah show that she knew what God wanted her to do (Genesis 24:56-58)?

D. Isaac's family.

God gave Isaac and Rebekah twin boys. The name of the older son was (Genesis 25:25).

The name of the younger son was (Genesis 25:26).

God said that the _____ was to serve or work for the _____ (Genesis 25:23).

What did Esau like to do (Genesis 25:27)?

What did Jacob like to do (Genesis 25:27)?

E. Isaac's sins.

- **Isaac showed more love to one child than to the other one.**

Isaac loved _____ (Genesis 25:28). _____ Was Isaac right in loving Esau more than Jacob? _____ Why?

Rebekah loved _____ (Genesis 25:28). Was she right in loving Jacob more than Esau? _____ Why?

What did Rebekah do to cause trouble for Jacob (Genesis 27:5-7)?

To love one child more than the other children gives many problems. Isaac had big problems with his family because of this.

- **Isaac told a lie.**

When Abraham went down into Egypt, he did something that got him into trouble (Genesis 12:11-13). Isaac did the same thing when he went to Gerar. What did he do (Genesis 26:7)?

F. Isaac's walk with God.

What was Isaac doing when Rebekah arrived (Genesis 24:63)?

Isaac was a quiet man who stayed close to God.

2. JACOB

READ GENESIS CHAPTERS 27 to 36 CAREFULLY.

It is very hard to understand Jacob's life. He did many things that did not please God. Yet, he had great faith in God (Genesis 35:3,11-15). God knew what kind of a man Jacob would be. He knew what kind of a man Esau would be.

Esau lived just for the day. When he wanted to hunt, he hunted. When he wanted to eat, he ate. Jacob lived for the time to come. He knew what was good for him. He did not care how he got what he wanted (Genesis 25:29-34).

A. Jacob's name.

The name Jacob means supplanter. This means a person who cheats or tricks. How did Jacob trick Esau (Genesis 25:29-34)?

B. Jacob's sins.

- **Cheating.**

The birthright was a special right given to the oldest son. In those days the oldest son was to become the head of the house after the death of the father. He was to receive the greatest blessing from his father. Esau was the oldest son. Therefore, he was to be the head of the house after Isaac's death. He was to receive the blessing. He was to get most of his father's cattle and money. The younger brothers and sisters were to obey the oldest brother.

- One day Esau came in from hunting. He was very hungry. Jacob was making a soup.

Esau wanted some. What did Jacob ask him to do before he would give him soup (Genesis 25:31)?

- Jacob did not do right in asking for Esau's birthright. Esau did not do right in giving it away.
- What did Jacob do to Esau (Genesis 27:35)?

Rebekah was not honest in the things she did. What did she do when she heard that Isaac was going to bless Esau (Genesis 27:8-10)?

Was Jacob willing to obey her?

- **Lying.**

Notice how easily Jacob lied to his father, when he said, "I am Esau," (Genesis 27:19).

C. Results of Jacob's sins.

- **He had to leave home.**

What did Jacob have to do because he tricked his brother (Genesis 27:42,43)?

Jacob knew that he was to be the head of the house after Isaac died. He tried to get this birthright in his own way. Would Jacob have received his birthright if he had let God work it out for him?

- **He was cheated.**

Laban gave _____ instead of _____ for his work (Genesis 29:18-25).

What did Laban do to Jacob when he worked for his cattle (Genesis 31:1-8)?

Laban did the same thing to Jacob that Jacob did to his brother.

Whenever we do wrong, we can expect wrong to come to us (Proverbs 26:26,27; Galatians 6:7,8).

- **He had fear.**

How did Jacob feel when he went home (Genesis 32:1-7)?

Because Jacob cheated his brother, he was afraid of him. Sin brings fear (Proverbs 28:1; Isaiah 66:4).

D. Jacob's faith.

Jacob did things which were not pleasing to God. Yet, he believed what God said.

- **God made promises to Jacob.**

God told Jacob that He would make him a great nation. He would give Jacob a country (Canaan).

- **Genesis 28:10-15.** Jacob was on his way to Laban's place. He slept outside. What did Jacob call this place (Genesis 28:19)?
- This means "the house of God." Many churches and schools are called by this name today.

What did Jacob vow (promise) God (Genesis 28:20-22)?

- **Genesis 31:3,11-13.** What did God ask Jacob to do?
- **Genesis 46:1-4.** What did God promise to do for Jacob in Egypt?

- **God worked in Jacob's life.**

God really worked in Jacob's life. He took all the trickery out of him. God taught him to stop cheating.

- God did some of this teaching while Jacob was in Laban's house.
- God did some of this teaching while Jacob was on his way home. On his way home, he had a new fear. He heard that his brother was coming with _____ men (Genesis 32:6). Jacob wanted to make friends with his brother. He sent much cattle ahead of him. These cattle were to be a gift to his brother. He thought his brother would not fight against him if he gave him cattle (Genesis 32:13-20). Then Jacob divided his servants into two groups (Genesis 32:7,8). This time Jacob prayed (Genesis 32:9-12).

Jacob came to a small river. He sent everyone across the river (Genesis 32:23). He stayed on the one side of the river by himself. Maybe he was praying. He was alone.

What happened while he was there (Genesis 32:24-30)?

What did Jacob want from this man (Genesis 32:26)?

What was Jacob's name changed to (Genesis 32:28)?

This means "one who wrestled with God" or "Prince with God." Who was the man that wrestled with Jacob (Genesis 32:30)?

- **God tested Jacob's faith.** Jacob did not know if his brother was coming to get even with him. Jacob was afraid. He went to God. God let him struggle for what he wanted. God saw that Jacob really wanted a blessing. When Jacob was ready for the blessing, God blessed him.

E. Jacob and false gods.

Rachel came from the same country as Abraham. Why did God call Abraham out of that country?

What did Rachel take with her when she left home (Genesis 31:34)?

It looks like Rachel was still holding on to her gods. These gods were not the real living God.

God told Jacob to go back to Bethel. What was Jacob's family to do before they were to go back (Genesis 35:2-4)?

F. Jacob's blessings.

- God blessed Jacob when he was with Laban. What did God give him (Genesis 30:43)?
- Jacob was forgiven by Esau (Genesis 33:8-11).
- God blessed Jacob with sons (Genesis 35:22). The names of Jacob's sons are: (Genesis 35:23-26).

The twelve tribes of Israel are named after these twelve sons of Jacob.

WORDS TO LEARN

1. birthright - the right of the first-born, or oldest son in the family the right to most of the cattle and money of the father, blessing and the right to be the head of the house after the death of the father.
2. results - that which we get because of something that happened - example - We study hard and as a result we get good marks.
3. supplanter - one who cheats or tricks to get what he wants.
4. trickery - to do tricks, cheating, deceitful tricks.
5. vow - promise to God.

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