

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. God spoke to Jacob through a dream. How can we be certain that it is **God** indeed who speaks to us?
2. Was the blessing of Abraham deserved by Jacob? (28:4)
3. At first, Jacob was unaware of the Lord's presence. How is it that we as his children sometimes forget God's omnipresence?
4. In response to God's revealing of himself, Jacob dedicated himself with fervor. How can we maintain our fervor for God?

SUMMARY:

Although Jacob's desire for the birthright of his brother Esau was a selfish one and his means of obtaining it somewhat devious, God was able to reach Jacob through a dream and to touch his heart. On arising the next morning, Jacob openly acknowledged God by building a stone pillar. Here he also made a vow to God to serve Him and to return to God a tenth of all that he received in the course of his life.

We can find much to criticize in the life of Jacob and many ways in which he fell short. He did have one important attribute which we should all seek to develop. When God touched his life, he stopped immediately to listen to the voice of God. He acknowledged God and he began to do the things he was instructed to do.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

May 6, 2007

Second Quarter

JACOB MEETS GOD AT BETHEL

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 27:41 through 28:22*

LESSON SETTING: Jacob blessed and sent to Padanaram.

TIME: Approximately 1760 B.C.

- I. JACOB'S JOURNEY.** Genesis 27:41 through 28:5
 - A. Abraham's Journey. Genesis 12:1-3
 - B. Lot's Journey. Genesis 19:15
 - C. Joseph's Journey. Genesis 37:27-28
 - D. Penalty of Unrighteousness. (vs. 42-43) 2 Samuel 12:13-14
- II. JACOB'S DREAM.** Genesis 28:10-15
God Speaks through Visions:
 - A. Joseph's Dream. Genesis 37:5-10
 - B. Cornelius' Vision. Acts 10:3-6
 - C. Paul's Vision. Acts 16:9
- III. JACOB'S VOW.** Genesis 28:16-22
 - A. Hannah's Vow. 1 Samuel 1:11
 - B. David's Vow. Psalm 132:2
 - C. Our Covenant. John 15:4, 7; Romans 12:1

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD, I AM WITH THEE, AND WILL KEEP THEE.*
Genesis 28:15

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 32:1-12, 24-32

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: John 3:1-16

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: JACOB'S NEW NAME

INTRODUCTION:

After an encounter with God on the way to the land of his mother's people, Jacob apparently learned to trust in the living God as God continued to bless him during the time he spent in the land of Laban. This time **he** was the victim of trickery and deceit and God turned this to his good. Laban was apparently a weak and greedy man and often he made bargains, only to renege and take action which would cheat Jacob out of his just wages. Even the daughters of Laban bore witness to the character of their father in that they acknowledged that he treated them as strangers and servants. Through all of this Jacob seemingly returned good for evil.

Then, came the time in which God would have him to return to the land of his father and even in this, it must have caused his heart to fear. Jacob chose to obey God.

This trip back to the land of his people was also an eventful trip for Jacob and his family. Laban angered by the departure of Jacob, his wives and his flocks, rode to overtake them. God, who was able to look into the heart of Laban warned him that he was not to deal treacherously again with Jacob. Jacob must have wondered at the attitude of his father-in-law and must have thanked God that He warned Laban.

It was on this trip back to his family that God could bless Jacob with the angel's visit and change his name from Jacob which means "supplanter" or "schemer" to Israel, which means "one who has power with God." Jacob had been made ready for the place in history which God had for him.

CENTRAL TRUTH: We can please God only when we die to self and recognize the Lordship of Christ.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I WILL NOT LET THEE GO, EXCEPT THOU BLESS ME.*

Genesis 32:26

In this statement, Jacob exhibited a characteristic which pleases God, that of importunity or persistence. In the eleventh chapter of Luke, the disciples saw Jesus praying and they asked Him how to pray. In addition to that prayer which we are so familiar with, He told them a story about a man who went to his friend for a loaf of bread. He told them that the friend would not give him the bread until he persisted in asking. He was trying to encourage them to be persistent in prayer.

Jacob showed this persistence and the fact that his experience was more than just physical is indicated in the book of Hosea where the Word states that on this night Jacob wept and made supplication to the angel of God (Hosea 12:4). He knew that he had come face to face with a messenger of God and he persisted until he received a blessing.

Anyone who will spend time in the presence of God and continue in prayer will surely be blessed also. The next morning in reviewing his experience, Jacob said, "*I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved.*" These words can be ours if we are willing to come face to face with God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 7 - 13

M. God Prospers Jacob. Genesis 31:1-16

T. Jacob Flees from Laban. Genesis 31:17-24

W. Jacob and Laban Make a Covenant. Genesis 31:43-49

T. *Jacob Fears Esau. Genesis 32:1-8

F. *Jacob's New Name. Genesis 32:9-12; 24-32

S. Jacob Meets Esau. Genesis 33:1-11

S. Jacob Parts from Esau. Genesis 33:12-20