

# JACOB – ISRAEL

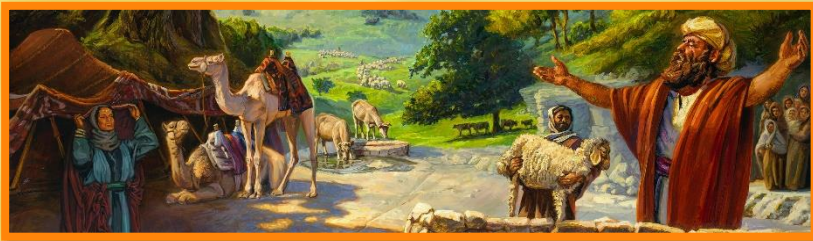
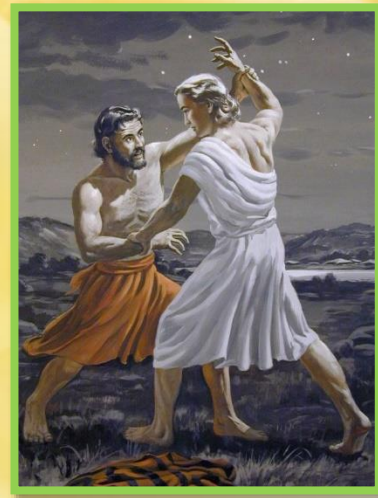


Lesson 10 for June 4, 2022

Jacob was finally back to the Promise Land. Now he had to confront the rage of his brother Esau because of his past mistakes.

He asked for God's and his brother's forgiveness, and he became a new man, Israel.

Some issues arose within his family, so he encouraged them to abandon all idolatry and to embrace a covenant with God.



Jacob is forgiven => Israel:



God's forgiveness. Gn. 32



Human forgiveness. Gn. 33



Family issues:



Violence breeds violence. Gn. 34



Abandoning idolatry. Gn. 35:1-15



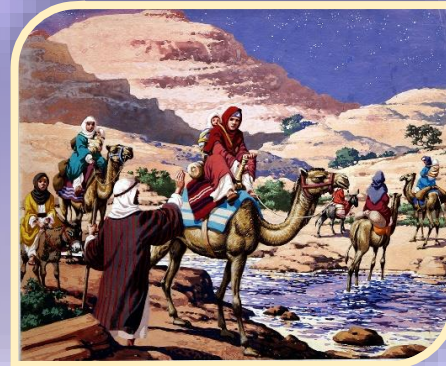
The death of Rachel. Gn. 35:16-29

# GOD'S FORGIVENESS

"And He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.'" (Genesis 32:28)

Why was Jacob afraid of Esau (Genesis 32:11)?

Esau had promised to kill Jacob (Gn. 27:41). Jacob wanted to make up with him, but Esau was coming along with 400 men. Jacob prayed and clung to God's promises (Gn. 32:9-12).



Jacob couldn't do anything else, so he prayed and asked for God's forgiveness. His spiritual struggle became physical (Gn. 32:13-24).

Finally, Jacob held on to the "man" because he realized he was God Himself (Gn. 32:30). Jacob asked for His blessing (Gn. 32:26). God assured him, "you have prevailed" (Gn. 32:28).



# HUMAN FORGIVENESS

**"And Jacob said, '[...] I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me."**

*(Genesis 33:10)*

Jacob had sent some gifts to his brother. He also prostrated himself seven times before him (Gn. 33:1-3).

He wanted to make clear that he wasn't going to demand the fulfillment of their father's blessing (Gn. 27:29).



Esau's reaction astonished Jacob. His brother had forgiven him! (Gn. 33:4).

God's words had been fulfilled: "You have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." (Gn. 32:28)

Jacob had become a new man, Israel. He had been forgiven by God and by his brother. He knew he didn't deserve it. This is GRACE.

# VIOLENCE BREEDS VIOLENCE

**"the sons of Jacob [...] were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done."**

*(Genesis 34:7)*

Israel finally lived in peace. He bought his first piece of land at Canaan and built an altar to God (Gn. 33:18-20).

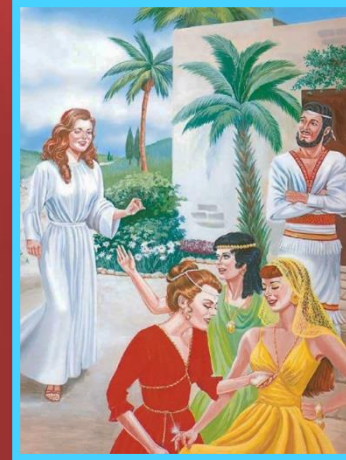
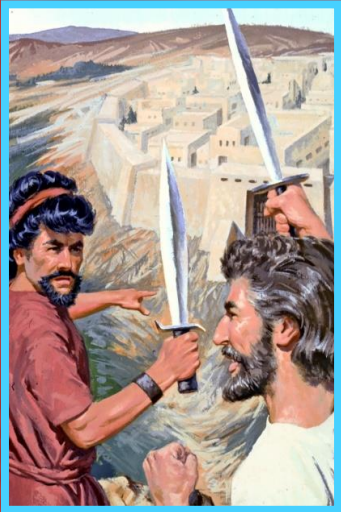
Peace soon faded away. Shechem raped Dinah, Jacob's daughter. However, he was willing to make amends (Gn. 34:1-4, 8).



Simeon and Levi wanted everything to go according to God's will. Nevertheless, they betrayed, killed, and plundered (Gn. 34:13-17, 25-29).

Jacob was more worried about the consequences of his sons' acts than about the horrible acts themselves (Gn. 34:30-31).

Evidently, God does not approve this. He acted to bring this family to a new relationship with Him.



# ABANDONING IDOLATRY

“And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, ‘Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.’” (Genesis 35:2)

God decided to renew His covenant with Jacob. This time all his family would be involved (Gn. 35:3).

Jacob understood that his family had to come closer to God. He asked them to remove all their idols. The response was unanimous (Gn. 35:4).

God protected them (Gn. 35:5-6). Jacob built an altar as a reminder of his first encounter with God (Gn. 35:7).



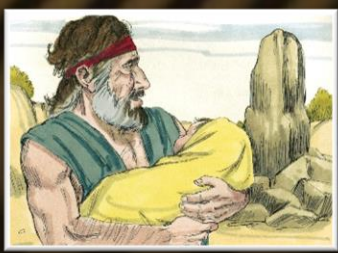
What did God's blessing to Jacob-Israel include (Gn. 35:11-12)?



Being fruitful and carrying the messianic seed (v. 11)



Possessing the Promised Land (v. 12)



# THE DEATH OF RACHEL

**"So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)." (Genesis 35:19)**

Jacob had to face the death of his dear ones. His mother Rebekah had died before he returned home. Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died in Bethel (Gn. 35:8).

Rachel died in their way to Bethlehem while giving birth to her last son, Benoni ("son of my sorrow"). Jacob named him Benjamin, "son of the right hand" (Gn. 35:16-18).



Soon after that, Reuben dishonored his father by sleeping with Bilhah (Gn. 35:22). Israel remained silent then, but he eventually took the birthright away from Reuben because of this (Gn. 49:3-4).

Israel and his family were not perfect. However, God was willing to fulfill His plan with them, no matter how imperfect they were.



**“From that night of wrestling beside the Jabbok, Jacob had come forth a different man. Self-confidence had been uprooted. Henceforth the early cunning was no longer seen. In place of craft and deception, his life was marked by simplicity and truth. He had learned the lesson of simple reliance upon the Almighty Arm, and amid trial and affliction he bowed in humble submission to the will of God [...] the faith of Abraham and Isaac appeared undimmed in Jacob.”**

**E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 19, p. 208)**



**“Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. You may say, I am sinful, very sinful. You may be; but the worse you are, the more you need Jesus. He turns no weeping, contrite one away [...] Freely will He pardon all who come to Him for forgiveness and restoration.”**