

VISION DREAMS Sunday, October 27, 2013

Unifying Topic: THE BLESSING PASSES TO JACOB

Lesson Text

I. The Promises Pass To Jacob (Genesis 28:1, 10-15)

II. Jacob's Vow (Genesis 28:16-22)

The Main Thought: And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. (Genesis 28:15, KJV).

Unifying Principle: When people feel insecure, they look for a place of security and the assurance of not being alone. Where and with whom can they find sanctuary? God assures Jacob of His presence and promises that through Jacob and Jacob's offspring, all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Lesson Aim: To demonstrate how God continues to work through Jacob to fulfill the promise He made to Abraham.

Life aim: To remind us that God uses a variety of ways to speak to us and reaffirm both His presence and His promises in our lives.

28:1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.

28:10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

28:11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

28:12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

28:13 And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

28:15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

28:16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.

28:17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

28:20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

28:21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God:

28:22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee

HISTORY:

Chapter 27: 1-46 Believing that death is near, Isaac instructs Esau to hunt some wild game and prepare a meal for him. Isaac promises to bless Esau following this meal. Overhearing this conversation, Rebekah prepares a similar meal, disguises Jacob to resemble Esau, and sends him in to Isaac. At first Isaac is confused, saying, *"The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's."* Jacob convinces Isaac that he is indeed Esau and receives his father's blessing. As Jacob exits, a little while later Esau enters, ready to be blessed. Weeping in sheer anger and frustration, Esau says: *"Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also!"* Isaac predicts that Esau and his descendants will live by the sword and serve his brother for a time. Esau hated his brother Jacob and vows to kill Jacob following the death of their father. Rebekah hears this and urges Jacob to escape Esau's wrath by going to her hometown of Haran where her brother lived, staying there until Esau's anger turns away. She also didn't like the local Hittite women, and she surely didn't want him marrying any of them.

LESSON:

Genesis 28:1, 10-15 The Promises Pass To Jacob

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

28:1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Isaac blessed Jacob and persisted that he not choose a bride from the daughters of Canaan. He understood that the Canaanite wives were not what God ordained. Isaac gave a charge to his departing son, instructing him to keep the family line of believers pure. Jacob must not marry a Canaanite, an unbeliever.

28:10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. Jacob was chosen to preserve the promised seed: the line of people who believed God, and His promises; and who were to bear the very special promised seed, the Savior of the world. Therefore, Jacob was forced to leave home, traveling from Beersheba toward Haran fleeing for his life in fear and shame. He suffered all this because he had sinned and sinned shamefully. At this time he was about 77yrs old and had stolen the blessing (inheritance) of his father from Esau; stolen it through lies and deception. Haran was a five-hundred mile journey for him, and he was traveling by camel, horse, or donkey.

28:11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. Jacob settled down for the night in the open countryside, not in the towns along the way; all alone and gripped with loneliness. He was probably looking over his shoulders feeling apprehensive for the lurking danger of robbers or even his brother Esau. He made a pillar of stones and laid down to sleep. This is a picture of destitution. Jacob now possessed only what he could carry. He's an heir of his father's estate, one of the largest estates in all the country, but now on the run for his life, leaving it all, and not able to go back home. Jacob is now homeless and destitute!

28:12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. While Jacob slept he had a dream, and in his dream God gave four great provisions to meet his need.

1. There was the vision of a great ladder or stairway stretching all the way from heaven up to earth, between God and man. The "ladder" could denote a ramp or staircase, but in a sense represents Christ; He alone is the Way to heaven. Jacob was bound to see how helpless he was in trying to reach God on his own. God had to provide the way if man was ever to reach heaven. There was a way provided by God himself. The point to see is that Jesus Christ claimed to be the great stairway (the Way) that reaches from heaven to earth.
2. There was the vision of angels; a stream of angels ascending and descending upon the stairway. What did the angels symbolize for Jacob? The word "angel" simply means messenger. Jacob saw the angels come to earth to carry out the commands of God and then return to heaven to report on their work. What was their work upon earth that would concern Jacob at this point in his life?
 - Angels protect and deliver believers through trials.
 - Angels guide and lead believers in their ministry.
 - Angels encourage believers.
 - Angels escort believers into heaven.

Seeing angels ascend and descend from heaven to earth encouraged Jacob's heart to the fullest degree possible. The angels meant that God had a host of messengers and ministering spirits who were actively looking after Jacob and the other believers upon earth, a host of angelic beings available to do all of the above.

28:13 And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;—

3. There was the vision of God's presence in heaven, of God standing above the ladder. This was bound to be the sovereign control of God. God was in control of everything, no matter what it was, everything in heaven and earth. The crucial point to see is that Jacob now knew that God would handle his problems for him; to work all things out for his good.
4. There was God's Word and promises. It is the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac who is speaking to Jacob. The LORD (Yahweh) is the *redemptive name* for God. It is the name God uses to stress that He saves and redeems man from his fall into sin and death. God was assuring Jacob that the same

God who redeemed his grandfather and father would redeem him. Jacob had just a few days earlier, plotted to get the blessing of the promises, and here for the first time God gives the promises of Abraham to Jacob.

28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹When God makes a promise, it is forever. He reiterates these promises He made to Abraham, then Isaac, and now Jacob. God never changes His plan.

1. The Promised Land: Canaan (a symbol of heaven).
2. The Promised Seed: meant numerous descendants, so many that they would number as the dust of the earth and spread out in every direction.
3. The Promised Seed, a very special seed: meant the Messiah, the Savior of the world in whom all the families of the earth will be blessed.

28:15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

4. The promise of His presence and protection. Note that God gave Jacob the greatest protection imaginable:
 - a. God's presence: *"I am with you."*
 - b. God's protection, keeping power: *"I will keep, protect, watch over you wherever you go."*
 - c. God's assurance that He would fulfill His promises and purpose in Jacob's life: *"I will not leave you until I have fulfilled my promises and purposes in your life."*

Note that the great promises given to Jacob are also given to us.

Genesis 28:16-22 Jacob's Vow

28:16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. Right after God had finished speaking, Jacob awoke and he was engulfed with a deep sense of God's presence.

1. Jacob now knew the Lord's presence in a very special way in that place. As he dreamed where he was, he didn't even know it was God's presence that was keeping him before now. Since his flight from home, he had been gripped with fear, shame, loneliness, and he was now destitute. He had been suffering mentally and emotionally for days, and he was sensing great conviction of sin because of the great wrong he had done against his father and brother. He had been in the very depths of discouragement and despair. But God had gloriously met him in his desperation and need. He really felt God would always be present with him protecting and meeting his needs. This glorious truth struck Jacob and he now understood God as never before, for God revealed His sovereign care for him. He found God in an unlikely place out there in the open air and that any place could be the house of God because God is there.

28:17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

2. Jacob now sensed his awe of God and it struck fear being in that place: The word *"dreadful"*, has to do with reverence. He was not afraid that something evil would happen, but just wanted to reverence God's almighty power in that place.
 - a. It was the very *"house of God"*: a very special place where he could meet God in worship and prayer.
 - b. It was the very *"gate of heaven"*: a very special place where he could ask and seek and knock until God heard and answered his prayer; or the phrase the gate of heaven possibly implies that this is the entrance into heaven.

28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. Jacob had a spectacular night and now arises early in the morning and builds an altar.

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/Genesis/41.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

3. Jacob needed to set that place apart as a very special place of worship. He took the stone that he had put for his pillows setting up a pillar consecrating it all with oil. To a believer, pouring oil upon a person or object has always been a symbol of dedication or consecration. Jacob was dedicating the place to God as a very special place of worship.

28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. Jacob named the place Bethel, which means *"house of God."* However, that city was called Luz which was nearby and was to eventually have its name changed to Bethel.

28:20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,— Jacob's vow involved his commitment if God did a certain thing. This was Jacob's renewed commitment and vow to God. This is the first vow recorded in the Bible. Note the reason why Jacob was recommitting his life to the Lord: because of the great promise God had just made to him in verses 13-15—the land; the spreading of his seed; all the families blessed; God will be with him, keep him, bring again to his land, not leave him until He has done all He has spoken of. In humility and meekness, the only thing Jacob requested was the bare necessities of life, food and clothing.

28:21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God:— Jacob's commitments:

- The LORD, the God of redemption and salvation would always be his God because God would bring him back home to his father's house.

28:22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

- The stone would always represent God's house. He would worship God there because God would be his God.
- He would be faithful to give back a tenth of what he receives to God. He would tithe to God because God would be his God.

When God meets us and gives us very special experiences, special manifestations of His presence, we should always rededicate our lives to Him. God wants total dedication unto Him.

SUMMARY:

The transfer of birthright from Esau to Jacob had been validated by Isaac because of Jacob's and Rebekah's trickery. He now has to leave home and is charged by his father Isaac to not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan (**v1**).

Jacob starts out from Beersheba toward Haran and settles down in a certain place. He laid on a pillow of stones and went to sleep. He began to dream, seeing a ladder from earth reaching up to heaven where the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And in this dream he sees the Lord standing above the ladder proclaiming His Omnipotence. He is the Lord God of Abraham and Isaac and He is giving Jacob and his seed the land on which he is lying on. Jacob's seed shall be like the dust of the ground, spread to the west, east, north, and south. In his seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. God promises Jacob that He will be with him, will keep him in every place he goes; never leaving him until all that He has promised come to pass (**w10-15**).

Jacob awakens from his sleep realizing that God's presence had been with him in that place and he was terrified in awe of being in the house of God and heaven was its entrance. He got up early in the morning consecrating the place he was in. He poured oil on the pillow of stones he had been lying on, calling the place Bethel. Jacob makes a vow unto God: that if God will be with him, keep him, give him bread to eat, and clothes to wear, and bring him back to his father's house in peace, then God will be his God. The stone Jacob had consecrated unto God shall be God's house. All that God gives him he will in turn give back a tenth unto God (**w16-22**).

APPLICATION:

God is never lost, but when you truly find Him, it is the most awesome moment in one's life. God is everywhere to meet any and all needs. When He gives us a vision, our passion is to run with it trusting God all the way.

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