

## Hebrews - 2/21/21

### Jacob - A Leaning Faith

**TEXT- Hebrews 11:21** *By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.*

**Gen 47:28-31** *And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years. 29 And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt: 30 But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will do as thou hast said. 31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.*

**INTRO-** The words "as he leaned on his staff" are of no small significance. After Jacob wrestled with God, for the rest of his days, he walked with a limp, and he gave over control of his life to God. As an old man and now a great hero of faith, Jacob "leaned on his staff," demonstrating his hard-learned trust and dependence on the Lord.

**The name Jacob means supplanter or deceiver**

**Israel means "prince of God" or "prevailer with God"**

- Jacob was born 15 years before the death of Abraham.
- Jacob's parents were Isaac and Rebekah
- Jacob was born as the younger twin of Esau
- Esau despised his birthright and was a man of the flesh
- Jacob's name means supplanter. He was a deceiver.
- Jacob's ladder
- Marriage to Leah and Rachel
- 12 sons born
- Wrestled with an angel
- Name changed to Israel.
- Jacob in Egypt
- Blessed Ephraim and Manasseh

Jacob is a man like any of us. His life is a story of a transformed man, who, from a deceiver became a believer. Looking at his early life, he is an opportunist, conspirator, manipulative, and liar. Through deceit and trickery, Jacob acquired not only the birthright of Esau but also his blessing.

In Hebrews 11 he is noted for his faith to God.

**Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, was promised by God to have many descendants just as the stars in the sky and the sand by the sea.**

Jacob's life began with a struggle. As a twin in the womb with Esau, he jostled for position and was born grasping his brother's heel. Jacob's name is translated as "he deceives" (Genesis 25:26). When his mother, Rebekah, asked God during her pregnancy what was happening to her, God told her that there were two nations within her womb who would become divided. One would be stronger than the other, and the older would serve the younger (Genesis 25:23)

**The life of Jacob can be divided into four periods:**

- 1. The first period deals with his birth and life with his parents, Isaac and Rebekah, in Canaan**
- 2. The second period of Jacob's life with Laban**
- 3. The third period of Jacob's life centers around his own family back in Canaan** - This was when Jacob wrestled with an angel, and his name was changed to Israel - Benjamin was born ... Rachel dies
- 4. The fourth period of Jacob's life has to do with his migration to Egypt and his death there**

**Lesson no. 1: Parents have a great impact on their children**

The story of Jacob shows us how children *repeat* the errors of their parents.

- Isaac loved Esau while Rebekah loved Jacob.
- This led to the growing rivalry between Esau and Jacob.

Jacob he loved Rachel more than Leah.

Jacob favored Joseph more than his other sons.

**Parents possess the power to mold their children according to God's purpose.**

**Lesson no. 2: Don't underestimate the law of cause and effect**

**Gal 6:7** *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

For 20 years, Laban deceived Jacob

Just like Jacob who used deceit to take advantage of his father Isaac and Esau, Laban also used craftiness and trickery to take advantage of Jacob.

Jacob was also deceived when his children faked the death of Joseph.

**Never ever commit the mistake of believing that you will be able to cheat the law of cause and effect.**

God can forgive the spiritual effects of our bad decisions, but we may never be able to erase its physical effects.

**Lesson no. 3: God has a plan for each of us**

God confirmed the Abrahamic covenant to Jacob. **Gen 28:13-14** *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; 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.*

God has a plan for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**And God has a plan for all of us as well.**

#### **Lesson no. 4: God will humble you**

Jacob is a man who uses people to further his own ends.

Throughout the early life of Jacob relied on himself to obtain physical blessings. He bought his brother's birthright for a bowl of soup and later deceived his father to acquire his brother's blessings.

Through Laban Jacob is humbled

**God needs to humble you before He can use you.**

After another six years, Jacob finally decided to leave the house of Laban

Jacob attributed the success of his life to God

God will humble us and make us realize that we are NOTHING apart from Him.

#### **Lesson no. 5: We must persevere until the very end**

Jacob is the man popularly known as the man who wrestled with God. **Gen**

**32:24-31** *And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. 29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. 31 And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.*

**The point of the wrestling match is not about who will win, but to test the faith of Jacob. Jacob now recognizes that he can't continue relying on his own ability. He knows He must depend upon God.**

**CONCL – He died as part of the covenant wherein God identified Himself throughout Scripture as the “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”**