

Let's Worship God

16th-21st January 2023
Genesis



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Monday - Genesis 27:6-17 - Taking Matters Into Your Own Hands

Isaac knows that he is going to die soon which means that one of his sons must inherit God's covenant promise, first given to Abraham - the blessing of a promised Messiah, a promised land, prosperity, and many descendants. So, according to the custom of the day, even though he has hurt his parents by marrying women who don't believe in God (Genesis 26:34), Esau is the one chosen. It's a decision which splits the family because Rebekah wants Jacob to inherit the blessing. Although God has told her in a prophecy that the older will serve the younger (Genesis 25:23), she is not willing to wait for God to do it in His time and His way. Instead, she takes matters into her own hands and comes up with a plan to deceive Isaac - a sinful solution. As if the deception isn't bad enough, she also gets Jacob involved by sending him out to get the goats for the meal. At first Jacob is hesitant; he's not sure if it will work. But his mother reassures him by saying if he gets caught, she'll take the blame, and then she tells him to do just what she says, which he then does.

As we shall see later in the week this eagerness of Rebekah's to do God's work in her time and in her way did achieve the goal but not without an awful lot of heartache and pain for all concerned.

Questions

1. Why did Isaac want to pass on his inheritance - God's covenant promise?
2. Who was Isaac going to pass on his inheritance to and why?
3. Who did Rebekah want God's covenant promise given to and why?
4. What plan did Rebekah come up with, and did Jacob go along?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would wait for God's timing and do things His way.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28:15

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Genesis 27:18-29 - Deception!

Jacob knows what he wants, and he's prepared to lie to get it. He begins by introducing himself as Esau to his father, and then, when his father asks how he was able to hunt the animal so quickly, he has the nerve to say that God has given him success.

The old man, Isaac, who cannot see, feels that something isn't right. Although the man standing in front of him says he's Esau, he doesn't sound like Esau, yet his arms are hairy like Esau's. So, Isaac asks this man (Jacob) if he is Esau, and Jacob lies again, telling his father he is Esau. Isaac is still not convinced, only after he has smelled Esau's clothes, worn by Jacob, does Isaac then bless Jacob thinking that he is blessing Esau.

The deception and lies have worked. Jacob has obtained the blessing his older brother should have received. But at what cost?

Lying is probably one of the easiest sins to commit. Why? Because the sinful heart of man is constantly demanding that he put himself first, and lying often facilitates that, no matter what the cost to the individual or those around him. It is so easy, even for those who love the Lord, to lie in order to save face or maintain a pretense. Paul writing to the church in Ephesus commands us as Christians to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully" (Ephesians 4:25). Let us be careful to work hard at telling the truth to one another. What is more important? Close friendships based on honesty or keeping up our image?

Questions

1. Who does Jacob introduce himself as?
2. Is this the only lie Jacob tells?
3. What convinced Isaac that the man before him was Esau?
4. Why do people tell lies and is that a good thing?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we will be honest in all that we do.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28:15

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 27:30-40 - A Blessing Missed

You'll remember from Genesis 25:29-34 how Esau has sold his birthright to Jacob for some stew, a decision which God sums up in Genesis 25:34, "So Esau despised his birthright." But now that the time has come to actually receive the blessing that goes with the birthright, he forgets all about his previous selling of it to Jacob and carefully does everything necessary to please his father and so get the blessing. There's just one problem. As we have seen, Jacob has already deceived him out of it, the blessing of prosperity and lordship is gone.

There's a very important lesson in this for us all, especially our covenant children. God has blessed you greatly by placing you into Christian homes. These are homes where you have the privileges of hearing the Word of God read and singing from it, of being prayed for, and of participating in the life of the Church. These are privileges, and you should not treat them lightly. Do not think that you can set them aside, discard them, and then at some point when it suits you, just pick them up again. It doesn't work that way. When you come back you may find that many of the blessings you formerly took for granted are no longer there just for the taking. Take hold of the blessings you have now, believe in Christ with all your heart, soul, and mind, seek first the kingdom of God, leave sin behind, and you will live a wonderful life to God's glory.

Questions

1. Was Isaac surprised to hear Esau's voice and why?
2. What did Esau ask Isaac to do?
3. What did Isaac do?
4. What lesson is there in this for us, especially our covenant children?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would value the blessings God gives us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28:15

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 27:41-46 - Hatred and Revenge

Esau's response to his father Isaac's blessing of his brother Jacob turns from initial surprise, to anger, then outright hatred. He is full of envy, wanting what Jacob has and hating Jacob because he has it. Nothing will satisfy Esau except the death of Jacob, but the time is not right, their father is still alive, and Esau doesn't want to upset him. So Esau makes his plans. As soon as their father has died, and everything is in upheaval, then he will kill Jacob and seize the inheritance. Jacob's deceit and lies have not only brought grief to his father but also have given rise to murderous thoughts in his brother's heart.

We must be very careful about what we think about the people who annoy and frustrate us. Jesus in His sermon on the mountainside recorded in Matthew 5 tells us, "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgement." (Matthew 5:21-22)

Rebekah warns Jacob of Esau's hatred, telling him to run away. She doesn't want to lose her husband to old age, her son to murder, and her other son to the judgement of God, so she does what she can to protect Jacob and Esau from each other. She hopes that time and distance will pacify Esau.

Rebekah, not wanting to worry Isaac, doesn't tell him about Esau's murderous plans, but instead she brings up her concerns about marriage. Esau has disobeyed God in marrying two unbelieving Hittite women. Isaac and Rebekah don't want the same thing to happen to Jacob, so they come up with a plan to remove Jacob from temptation.

Questions

1. Why does Esau hate Jacob?
2. What are Isaac and Rebekah concerned about?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would not be envious of others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28:15

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Genesis 28:1-9 - A Command and a Blessing

Jacob and Rebekah's lies have resulted in pain, anger, envy, hatred, and now a heart-breaking separation as Jacob must say goodbye to his family to escape his brother's murderous intent and find a godly wife. Whenever we take matters into our own hands and don't wait for God's time and God's way, the result will be pain, anxiety, grief, and sadness.

Isaac sends Jacob on his way with a blessing and a command. Jacob is commanded not to marry an unbelieving Canaanite woman but to go find a wife among the believers in Rebekah's family. This idea that a Christian should not marry a non-Christian is emphasised by Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:14. Isaac then asks God to bless Jacob. This blessing is the blessing of Abraham, and it contains two great promises. The first is a promise of many children and descendants. Through Jacob will come the Messiah, and the Messiah, Jesus Christ, will bring together different peoples together as a community in the Church. The second promise is the promise of an inheritance for Jacob's descendants. This isn't just the promised land of Canaan, but it looks ahead to the promise of a heavenly inheritance for those true spiritual children of Jacob who believe in Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What is the result of Jacob's lies?
2. Where is he sent to find a wife?
3. What are the promises given to Jacob?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God always keeps His promises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28:15

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Saturday - Genesis 28:10-22 - Jacob's Ladder

Jacob sets out on his own, but he is not alone - God is with him. On his first night away from home, God comes to Jacob in a dream in which Jacob sees a stairway reaching from the earth to heaven. Angels are walking up and down the stairway, and there at the top of it is the Lord. The Lord speaks to him and declares the covenant promise He has given to his grandfather Abraham and father Isaac - the promise of salvation for himself and his family; the promise that through his family all the peoples of the world will be blessed; the promise of protection and provision.

Filled with awe and fear at God's work in his life, Jacob does two things:

1. He worships God. He takes the stone he has used as a pillow and sets it up as a memorial pillar, calling the place Bethel, the house of the Lord.
2. He commits himself and his family to God. The place where God has met with him will be established as a place of worship. He is also going to return to the Lord a tenth of all that the Lord will bless him with in recognition of the fact that all he has comes from God.

Questions

1. What happens to Jacob on his first night away from home?
2. What does God promise him and is this promise new?
3. How does Jacob respond?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28:15

Praise: Psalm 120 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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