

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #65

### Genesis 28:1-22

Chapter 27 features Jacob jumping out of his character of faithfulness and chapter 28 features Jacob jumping back into his character of faithfulness.

**THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD AND PURPOSE TO OBEY GOD WILL BE BLESSED AND PROTECTED BY GOD EVEN AFTER SINFUL FAILURES.**

**NARRATIVE RESPONSE #1** - Jacob's obedient response to Isaac. 28:1-5

When Isaac called Jacob (28:1a), Jacob must have been filled with some type of emotional paranoia. He had blatantly lied to his father and had disrespectfully deceived him (27:18-29). He had lied about himself and about God (27:20). He knew he could be cursed for his actions (27:13). It must have been a tremendous relief to Jacob when his father blessed him (28:1b).

Isaac gave Jacob a "charge", which in Hebrew means he gave him a command in the sense of an appointed commission or appointed assignment. His specific charge is not to marry a Canaanite girl, but go back to Paddan-aram (Mesopotamia - 25:20; 24:10), which was the place where Rebekah had originated, and take a wife from her brother Laban's family.

Verse 5 informs us that Jacob was back on track, for he "went" in the precise direction that his father had commanded.

**NARRATIVE RESPONSE #2** - Esau's humanistic response to Isaac. 28:6-9

Esau is a man who reacts and makes decisions on the basis of his own emotions, not God's revelation. He is an emotional reactionary. Instead of carefully and systematically analyzing what he ought to do, which should have been to get his life back on track with God, he had purposely already married a Canaanite woman (26:34-35) and now he comes up with another rebellious plan to marry Ishmael's daughter. Esau's philosophy is to do exactly the opposite of the counsel of his godly father and God.

As Dr. Allen Ross said: ". . .the unchosen son of Isaac married into the unchosen line of Ishmael" (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*, p. 74). God never enters into a relationship with any person on their terms, it is on His terms.

**NARRATIVE RESPONSE #3** - God's Divine appearance to Jacob. 28:10-17

Paddan-aram was approximately 450 miles northeast of Beersheba. After having traveled about 50-55 miles to Bethel or Luz (28:19), verse 11 informs us that Jacob took a stone for a pillow and lay down and went to sleep. While he was sleeping, he had an incredible, divinely inspired, dream (28:12).

He saw a ladder set up on the earth reaching into heaven and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it and above the ladder stood the LORD who identified Himself as such and He promised to give Jacob the land blessings and lineage blessings and seed blessings of

Abraham (28:13). **God would be with Jacob and would protect him until he had fulfilled all the Abrahamic promises (28:14-15).**

What God is revealing to Jacob is that He is continually in touch with this world. Through His ministering angels there is constant contact with this lower world, which includes reports and protection for God's elect. This ladder represented a stairway that could eventually take Jacob into God's heaven. When Jesus Christ was here, He referred to this very event and connected it to Himself as being the means of entering heaven (John 1:51). Through Jacob would come Jesus Christ, who can take one to heaven.

**NARRATIVE RESPONSE #4** - Jacob's humble responses to God. 28:16-22

**Response #1** - Jacob awoke. 28:16 - one in God's presence cannot stay sleeping

**Response #2** - Jacob feared. 28:17 - an awesome reverence for God to the point of trembling

**Response #3** - Jacob worshipped. 28:18-22

**(Worship Way #1)** - He worshipped through construction. 28:18a - built an altar to worship God

**(Worship Way #2)** - He worshipped through consecration. 28:18b - something set apart as sacred

**(Worship Way #3)** - He worshipped through identification. 28:19 - "Bethel" = "House of God"

**(Worship Way #4)** - He worshipped through commitment. 28:20-22

He promises God that he would give Him one tenth of everything God gave to Him. This ten percent percentage was in existence long before the O.T. law (i.e. Genesis 14:20). It seems to me that the heart of one who reverences God will be a heart that desires to give God, at very minimum, ten percent.

All of this is happening to Jacob in the aftermath of his failures. There will be moments of failure for even God's best servants, but those who purpose to obey God and get back on track will be protected and blessed by God.