

# Marriage and Worship

## Genesis Chapter 28

Gen 28:1 **1) Proper/Improper Marriage** vs 1-9

So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

- *Ch 26 ends with Rebekah complaining to Isaac about Esau and his wife and wants Isaac to tell Jacob to go to Laban's house to get a wife.*

Gen 28:2 "Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

Gen 28:3 "May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.

Gen 28:4 "May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham."

Gen 28:5 Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

- *Vs1+2 Marry from our family origin*
- *Vs 3 God will Bless you*
- *Vs 4 You have the blessing of Abraham*
- *Vs 5 Isaac sends him away*
- *2 items Isaac guides him with Marriage + Worship*
  - *Marriage Take heed who you marry. "Your spouse will either be your ministry or will assist you with your ministry" (Joe Focht)*
  - *Worship Take heed who you worship. "Who do you bow your heart before?" Savior and Lord?*

*These two issues alone are the most important issues that will govern your life.*

- *Isaac sends Jacob away not for fear of Esau but to retain the family lineage, for proper marriage.*

Gen 28:6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take to himself a wife from there, {and that} when he blessed him he charged him, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,"

Gen 28:7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram.

Gen 28:8 So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac;

Gen 28:9 and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

- *Now there is no other way of saying this but mockingly, "Isn't this a good reason to marry."*
- *Didn't marry Canaanite wives but did marry Ishmael's daughters. Ishmael = Work of Flesh*

Gen 28:10 **2) The Revealed God** vs 10-26

Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

Gen 28:11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place.

- *"Came to a certain place..." Sounds like coincidence (Ancient Rabbis said, "Coincidence is not a kosher word")*
- *Genesis 48:15 Jacob said at the end of his life "Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May God, the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life," Shepherded (KJV = fed) There is no coincidence!"*

- Jeremiah 10:23 "O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Again Jeremiah says it is not man's idea. But God directs his steps

Gen 28:12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

- *This ladder is the way to Heaven. Jacob now sees an access to heaven.*
- *Jesus interprets this to Nathaniel in the Gospel of John 1:51*
- *Here the Lord stood above the Ladder. In John 1:51 The Ladder on earth begins with Jesus.*
- *Jesus is the access to the Father.*
- *John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the father but by Me."*

Gen 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

Gen 28:14 "Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 28:15 "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."

- *No Rebuke for deceit GRACE GRACE GRACE*
- **With You; Keep You: Bring You; Promised You**
- *How would you feel if God spoke to you directly the words of vs. 15*
- *Matt 28:20 "I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."*
- *Jude 1:24 "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"*
- *Phil 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:"*
- *God's vow here is God Centered. It lists what God will do for man. It shows his commitment and what He will do for who He is in covenant with. It is not conditional.*

Gen 28:16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

Gen 28:17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Gen 28:18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on its top.

Gen 28:19 He called the name of that place Bethel; however, previously the name of the city had been Luz.

- *"How Awesome is this place!" Jacob doesn't understand that God is not in a single place. Jacob is impressed with the BLDG / Location.*
- *Bethel = House of God*
- *Luz = separation*
- *David said in Psalm 139:7, "Where can I go from your Spirit, or where can I flee from your presence."*
- *The problem with having a holy place, is it becomes an idolatrous place (1 Kings 13:32, Hosea 10:15; Amos 4:4) Bethel is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most mentioned city in the O.T. second only to Jerusalem. But it became a place of idol worship and sacrifice.*

Gen 28:20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear,

Gen 28:21 and I return to my father's house in safety, then the LORD will be my God.

Gen 28:22 "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

- *1<sup>st</sup> mention of a vow (Jacob making deals)*
- *Jacob's vow, in comparison to God's vow is*
  - *Man Centered*
  - *Jacob needs to see God's performance before he believes what God said*
  - *What Man Gets*
  - *Conditional*
- *With tongue in cheek, God can benefit from this. He might even get a 10<sup>th</sup> of what was Jacob's.*
- *God really needs to do in Jacob what He will do.*  
*He will take him from Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (God Prevails)*
- *Isn't it cool how God doesn't jump all over Jacob and correct him with a sharp angry rebuke.*
- *God says nothing, knowing what he said He will do.*

*We are a people who need this same work in us.*

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