

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar.....Genesis 21-23.....A Substitute
- 2) 10 Mar.....Genesis 24.....Guidance Needed
- 3) 17 Mar.....Genesis 25-27.....A Deceiver
- 4) 24 Mar.....Genesis 28-30.....A Stairway
- 5) 31 Mar.....John 20.....Believe!
- 6) 07 Apr.....Genesis 30-31.....Blessed
- 7) 14 Apr.....Genesis 32-33.....Wrestled
- 8) 21 Apr.....Genesis 34-36.....Renewed
- 9) 28 Apr.....Genesis 37.....Dreamer
- 10) 05 May.....Genesis 38-39.....Accused
- 11) 12 May.....Genesis 40-41.....Revealed
- 12) 19 May.....Genesis 42-46.....Reconcile
- 13) 26 May.....Genesis 47-50.....Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- Jacob meets God for the first time and commits to be faithful to God if God is faithful to him

Passage	Comments
Genesis 28:1-9	<p>Jacob Runs Away</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-4. Isaac's blessing upon Jacob (repeated here) was irrevocable even when deception was involved. That's probably why Isaac "trembled violently" when he realized he had been duped..... Gen 27:33 • vv6-9. Esau, presumably, tries to get back into the good graces of Mom & Dad by marrying within the family. But it was too little too late.
28:10-17	<p>Jacob's Dream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dreams are frequently weird. Jacob's ladder may have been just that. Zechariah dreamed of female angels with stork wings (Zech 5:9-10). Peter dreamed of all sorts of animals being lowered in a sheet (Acts 10:11-12). We just have to let the Bible give us the right interpretation. Else we'd speculate aliens were traversing between earth & a space ship. • vv13-15. We see that God, Himself, speaks to Jacob and confirms the Abrahamic covenant that all the descendants of the earth will be blessed through him (via Jesus) Gen 12:3
<p>A Few Notes on Dreams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does God use dreams today to foretell events and bring new revelations? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know • God once gave men dreams whereby they could foretell God's directives, even for some heathens (see Gen 20:3,6 Judges 7:13, Mat 27:19), BUT revelatory dreams were never common place • God reveals Himself to His prophets in visions and dreams Num 12:6 • For God does speak ...in a dream, in a vision of the night...(that) he may speak in men's ears and terrify them with warnings (NIV)..... Job 33:14-17 • "... the diviners see lying visions and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain...the people wander like sheep" Zech 10:2 • For in many dreams and in many words, there is emptiness. Rather, fear God..... Ecc 5:7 • "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams, ...and led My people astray" Jer 23:32 • BUT – What about Joel 2:28 & Acts 2:17? "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, "Your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We see this fulfilled in Agabus, Barnabas, Simeon, and the four daughters of Philip the evangelist, see Acts 11:28; 13:1; 21:9,10 • Common Principle on Dreams. Trust in God's objective word & not in subjective dreams. People receive dreams while not in full control of their faculties & possibly under the influence of spicy chicken wings from dinner 	
28:16-22	<p>Jacob Makes a Vow to Tithe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...the Lord is in this place..." and "...this is God's house..." and "if God will give me stuff, then I will give Him 10%" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By marking the place where he met God and then vowing to tithe demonstrated Jacob had changed • Why Tithe? Faith & actions go hand in hand. Works, including giving, are evidence we believe & accept God's word

Passage	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">Old Testament Tithing Overview</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tithes & Offerings were for Israelites only Deut 33:29 • Tithes were meant to support about 10% of the Jewish population – the Levites; and to show their reliance on God..... Num 18:24; Deut 14:23 • Tithes were on the first fruits (gross) of the land (crops and livestock), and if one withheld their tithe, a 20% penalty would be assessed Lev 27:31 • Tithes were mandatory. Curses were pronounced on the Land if they did not give – and Tithes were not for Temple repair or upkeep Mal 3:9-11 • A flat tax, 1/2 shekel per person over 20 yrs old, was instituted for temple repairs (Ex 30:12-16). It was reduced to 1/3 shekel after Babylonian captivity Neh 10:31 • Jews were commanded to prove God to be true by tithing..... Mal 3:10-12 • God would bless the 6th year with 3 years of food to accommodate for the 6th year, the 7th or Sabbath year, & for the 8th year to replenish – If they Tithed Lev 25:21 • During the 50th year of Jubilee, God would bless with 4 years of food to cover for the 48th year, the 49th year (which was a Sabbath year of rest), the 50th year of Jubilee (a year of rest), and the 51st year to replenish – If they Tithed Lev 25:11-12 • God would prevent any nation from coveting their land or warring with them when they brought their Tithes to Jerusalem 3x a year Ex 34:24 • OT Tithes supported the Ministers, not the Ministry (buildings & outreach). • No other nation has ever been under such a Land covenant 	
<p style="text-align: center;">New Testament Giving Overview</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT believers are not commanded, but urged to give in 6 different ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportionately – percentage-based, as God has prospered, let each man decide 2Cor 8:12; 2Cor 9:7 2. Consistently – not just once, but continuously & regularly 1Cor 16:2 3. Willingly – without coercion, manipulation 1Tim 6:18 4. Cheerfully – hopeful attitude; this is not lost money 2Cor 9:7 5. Sacrificially – true discipleship is costly 2Cor 8:2-3; Heb 13:16 6. Generously – those who give much, reap much 2Cor 9:6 • Giving is greatly encouraged, but no curses are pronounced on the NT believer or on their land if they do not give; Only blessings are promised to those who give, with enough to accomplish God's will 2Cor 9:6, 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exception: Ananias and Sapphira who lied & died Acts 5:1-11 	

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- After we believed and accepted God's salvation at the cost of His Son, Jesus Christ, what have we vowed or committed to do for God? Or do we want God just to give us stuff without any commitment from us? And should we even make vows these days? That's another lesson...

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



A closer look into Jacob's dream revealed one angel who was afraid of heights. [Gen 28:12](#)

Genesis 29-30a. Jacob meets his 2nd cousin, Rachel, falls in love, serves 14 years to marry her, BUT ends up marrying her sister first because of treachery by her dad. Will the Soap Opera ever end?

Passage	Comments
29:1-20	<p>Jacob Arrives at Uncle Laban's House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob's trip from Beersheba to Haran.....350 miles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comfortable 6-hour trip by car A 4-day trip by bicycle A grueling 8-10-day trip by camel vv14-20. After 1 month a deal is struck to serve 7 years for Rachel. Is 7 years considered a long time to wait for a girl? Leah had weak/tender/soft eyes <07390 Strong's> "A soft <07390> answer turns away wrath".....Prov 15:1 - She wasn't considered ugly, just not as gorgeous as Rachel But Jacob favored Rachel's striking beauty (v17) like her great aunt Sarah. Anything wrong marrying for the looks? v20. Time flies when you are in love
29:21-25	<p>3 BIG Reasons to Avoid Getting Drunk</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> You embarrass yourselfNoah Your kin folk take advantage of you Lot You wake up next to "Coyote Ugly".....Jacob
29:26-29	<p>Jacob had to serve 7 more years for Rachel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God invoked 2 laws to prevent future marital woes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unlawful to marry sisters..... Lev 18:18 Must treat wives fairlyDeut 21:15
29:30-31	<p>Favoritism Continues to Wreak Havoc in the Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v31. The Lord got involved and blessed Leah. Principle of reversed blessings Prov 24:17-18
Leah's Kids:	<p>Bilhah's Kids: (Rachel's maid)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reuben⁽²⁾ Simeon⁽⁷⁾ Levi⁽⁸⁾ Judah ⁽¹⁾ Issachar⁽⁹⁾ Zebulun⁽¹⁰⁾ (d) Dinah
Zilpah's Kids: (Leah's maid)	<p>Sons of Joseph:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dan Naphtali⁽⁶⁾ Manasseh⁽⁶⁾ Ephraim
Rachel's Kids:	<p>Note #1:</p> <p>#. Birth order; (#) = order listed in Rev 7:5-8</p> <p>Note #2:</p> <p>Manasseh replaces Dan in Rev 7:5-8</p>
30:1-13	<p>Will the Soap Opera Ever End?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desperation leads to children by the handmaids Why didn't Jacob ever say – "HEY, let's stop making a mockery of God's pristine design for marriage → One man and one woman for life"? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was culturally OK to have multiple wives during Jacob's day. Fighting entrenched cultural norms is hard for us all. Consider the cultural norms we no longer or seldom squawk about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divorce & remarriage, which is sequential polygamy is fully accepted within society today (Govt & churches) Same sex marriage is now acceptable within Govt & civil circles and some churches What's next? Polygamy? Bestiality? Underage? Incest?
<p>Does God Accept Polygamous Marriages (1 Man, Many Wives) as valid?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, He does, just as He fully accepts Divorced & Remarried couples. This is realized with His acknowledgements of such marriages by David, Abraham, Abimelech, & Solomon who had 300 wives & 700 concubines. Would God acknowledge Polyandry (1 Wife, Many Husbands) as valid? Does God "join together" spouses in same sex marriages? For more on this see my study on 1Corinthians 7 (https://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/SS-1Cor-07-2018.pdf) 	

Passage	Comments
30:14-16	<p>Leah Bought the Right to Go to Bed with Her Husband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v15. "...you took my husband." Leah was the 1st wife, so her statement was valid. Additional wives were sometimes called concubines Gen 25:6 God had to provide specific laws to guarantee civility and fairness to additional wives and step-heirsExodus 21:7-10 After this incident, God provided a law forbidding the marriage of sisters to the same man Lev 18:18
<p>Principle of Monogamous Sex. Men may have had multiple wives, but monogamous sex (one wife at a time) was the norm.</p> <p>Consider Esther: King Ahasuerus called one virgin at a time from his harem. Even a heathen king was not known for group sex..... Esther 2:13-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group sex was a mark of wickedness along w/ adultery, homosexuality, bestiality Lev 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was exemplified in Noah's Day; in Sodom & Gomorrah; & in the Land of Canaan. God purged the land when their "sins were completed" Gen 6:5-12; 15:16; 19:13; Lev 18:20-30 Other names for group sex: Orgies (NIV), Rioting/Revellings (KJ), Carousing (NASB)..... Rom 13:13; Gal 5:21; 1Pet 4:3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a shame to even talk about such things..... Eph 5:12 God still patiently waits for sinners to repent – and "such were some of you..." 1Cor 6:9-11 	
30:20-24	<p>Did God Condone Polygamy by Blessing with More Kids?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v20. Leah was convinced she could now become the favored wife giving Jacob 6 sons while Rachel was seemingly barren. This meant Jacob would vacate Rachel's bedroom for hers. v21. And "Afterward" Jacob might have frequented Leah's pad more since she did get pregnant one more time, but she bore a girl – Dinah. This might have enticed Jacob to move back to Rachel's pad...and guess what happened? vv22-24. God remembered Rachel – and she bore Joseph

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Since God blessed both sisters – and their maids – with children, does God condone polygamy? How do we answer the skeptics?
- Consider This.** The Bible is incredibly candid and transparent about the faults and flaws of its key figures, and God frequently works with them at their level (and at our level). For more, see: <https://answersingenesis.org/family/marriage/what-about-polygamy-in-the-bible/>

NEXT WEEK: John 20. The crux of our faith – the Resurrection, is only addressed in 1 chapter each in Matt, Mark & Luke. John covers it in 2 chapters. If the Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith why so few details provided in the Gospels?

