

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 02 Dec '18.....	Genesis 25-27.....	The Deceiver
2) 09 Dec	Genesis 28.....	Not Alone
3) 16 Dec	Genesis 29.....	Family?
4) 23 Dec	Christmas Message.....	Promise Kept
5) 30 Dec	Genesis 30-31.....	Home!
6) 06 Jan '19.....	Genesis 32.....	Transformed
7) 13 Jan.....	Genesis 33.....	Reconciled
8) 20 Jan.....	Sanctity of Life.....	Protect and Save
9) 27 Jan.....	Genesis 34-36.....	Assurance
10) 03 Feb.....	Genesis 37.....	Accept It
11) 10 Feb.....	Genesis 38-39.....	Tempted
12) 17 Feb.....	Genesis 40-41.....	Opportunity Knocks
13) 24 Feb.....	Genesis 42-50.....	Reunited

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>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 yearEx 34:24 • OT Tithes supported the Ministers, not the Ministry (buildings & outreach). • No other nation has ever been under such a Land covenant 	
<p>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...

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 29. 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. The drama continues.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



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