

The GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Genesis 28:10-22

Deuteronomy 7:1-11

Romans 9:9-24



12 February 2023

Pursuing our Goals - Running together into 2023

- Are we praising God together? - Hebrews 13:15; Isaiah 25:1; Psalm 150:6; Psalm 103:1; Psalm 145:3; Psalm 148.
- To praise is to **extol** in words or song; to **magnify**; to **glorify** on account of perfections or excellent works.

Examining Ourselves - 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10

- Do I walk in the Spirit so that I will not fulfill the lusts of my flesh? (Galatians 5:16, 25; 6:8; Romans 8:1, 4-5; 13:14; 1 Peter 4:6)
- ★ Without a plan and a commitment to regularly examine ourselves we shall not repent!

What We Learnt in the Previous Weeks

- The Church is the body of Christ - one body, one head, many members.
- Each of us has been given gifts which we are to use to serve one another in the body.
- The Gospel is a message of **victory, freedom, hope, new life and joy** for those who are "prisoners of war" and that victory was achieved by the King!

The Eternal Plan of God

"From all eternity God purposed to gather to Himself a special people from every nation, tribe, peoples, and tongue, re-created in His image, purchased by the blood of His own Son, **who would treasure, glorify, praise, worship and enjoy Him for His infinite worth and beauty for all eternity for His own glory and their good and pleasure.**"

GOD chose Jacob

- God chooses according to His sovereign will. Jacob was not seeking God but God takes the initiative to reach out to him. It was a personal call.
- It is God's plan for Jacob to be the father of the nation of Israel.
- God unfolds His eternal purpose through Jacob and his descendants (God's special people) Abraham → Isaac → Jacob.
- Jacob is in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messiah (Luke 3:23-38; Matthew 1:1-17).
- Paul uses the birth of Jacob and Esau as an exposition of the doctrine of election in Romans 9.
- The life of Jacob is written for our learning - Romans 15:4.
- Jacob is a picture of the elect - He is called (chosen) and taken through a process of sanctification like Abraham.
- A large portion of Genesis is dedicated to the life of Jacob and his children (around 24 chapters).
- God makes Jacob Israel, God's chosen people. Israel is in the Bible for our learning - we know about God and His ways because of His dealings with Israel. Genesis 32:28.
- In Isaac's blessing of Jacob and Esau we see the sovereignty of God over man's will.
 - Isaac loved Esau and intended to bless him, but God loved Jacob and actually blesses him (Malachi 1:2-3).
 - God's ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Jacob's First Encounter with the LORD

- The background - Genesis 28:1-9.
- Jacob's dream - The stairway or ladder which reaches to Heaven - Gen. 28:12.
 - Angels are employed as ministering spirits, to serve all the purposes and designs of God (Psalms 103:20-21, Psalms 91:11).
 - Angels are sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. All of this is made possible through Christ - (Hebrews 1:14).
 - Jesus Christ is the ladder between earth and heaven - He is the only way to God (John 1:51; John 14:6) - All the blessings of God come down to us through Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20; Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 1:10).
 - Christ came down to earth to do the will of the Father (John 6:35-40).
- The LORD reaffirms the promises He made to Abraham, to Jacob his descendant. All the patriarchs had a personal revelation of God.

- 'I am the LORD (the covenant keeping God), the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac' - Gen 28:13.
 - The promise of land reaffirmed (a city prepared for us as new testament saints) - Gen 28:13, Hebrews 11:10,14,16.
 - The promise of descendants reaffirmed- Gen 28:14
 - The promise of blessing 'All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring' - Gen 28:14 (Gen 12:3; Galatians 3:8; Galatians 3:16; 3:28; Eph 1:3; Colossians 3:11; Rev 7:9).
 - The promise of God's guidance and preservation - 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land' - Gen 28:15; Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 4:31; 31:6-8. There were no 'ifs' - it is all about God.
- The GOD who keeps His Covenant - 'I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' - Gen 28:15.
 - God takes the initiative. It is God who reveals Himself to Jacob. It is God who reaffirms all the promises. It is God who shows mercy to Jacob who is a sinner.
 - Jacob knew it was the LORD (YAHWEH, the Covenant Keeping God) who spoke - Gen 28:16.
 - How Jacob described the encounter with the LORD: (Gen 28:17)
 - AWESOME - Are we in awe of God? Meditate.
 - 'House of God' - David said 'I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.' (Psalm 122:1)
 - ➔ Are we glad to worship with the household of God, the Church, the body of Christ?
 - 'Gate of Heaven'
 - Jacob's worship was described as 'early', which reveals his heart for God - Gen. 28:18. Abraham's obedience was also described as 'rising early' (Genesis 22:3-4)
 - ➔ Do we desire to offer the Lord our best and 'early' worship?
 - 'Bethel' - Gen. 28:19 'House of God' - temple of God, believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22).
 - ➔ Do you consider your body the temple of the Holy Spirit? Meditate!

The Spiritual vs. the Natural Knowledge of God

- Jacob received a spiritual knowledge of the LORD. Although the LORD was in that place, he didn't know it till He received spiritual knowledge - (Genesis 28:16-17). Eternal life is knowing God (John 17:3).

- A spiritual knowledge of God is essential for a true love for God and His commandments (Romans 8:7; 2 Cor 4:6; 1 John 5:20; Daniel 11:32b). For it is impossible to love someone you don't know.
- God gives us understanding to know Him (Matthew 16:17, John 6:65). It is God who chooses to reveal Himself to His special people (Isaiah 54:13).
- The physical place previously called Luz is spiritually discerned to be 'Bethel' (House of God) after a spiritual revelation.
- It is the Spirit of God who gives spiritual sight to the blind - 2 Cor 4:6; Ephesians 1:18-23; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.
- Paul prayed a lot for spiritual knowledge of God and Christ - let's learn from His example and pray likewise - Colossians 1:9-10; Philippians 1:9; Ephesians 1:17.

The Only Acceptable Response - Learning from Jacob's Vow- Gen 28:20-22

- Since (God fulfils His promises).... then the LORD shall be my God.
- Since (God fulfils His promises).... then this stone I have set as a pillar shall be God's house.
- Since (God fulfils His promises)... then I shall give God a tenth of all that He gives me.
- Has God fulfilled His promises to His special people? -YES. Then what is our response? Love, obedience and devotion to God. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 4:19; Ephesians 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:15)