

Jacob
Focus on Genesis 32-33
“God Sightings”

Review Genealogy of Adam through Jacob’s 12 sons.

Discuss God’s plan for humanity to be his Divine Image and what we have seen so far in Genesis.

Share what we know about Jacob’s life up to Genesis 32.

Birth to Isaac and Rebecca along with twin brother, Esau.

Jacob named “grasped the heel, ‘he deceives’”. (Gen. 25:26)

Esau, “a skillful hunter” favored by his father. (Gen. 25:27-28)

Jacob, “favored by his mother” stayed by the tents (Gen. 25:27-28)

Jacob tricks his brother to “sell” his birthright for some stew. (Gen. 25:29-34)

Many years later, on Isaac’s deathbed, Jacob deceives Isaac into giving him Esau’s blessing. (Gen. 27:1-40)

Jacob flees to Laban, his uncle in Haran, Paddan Aram, to find a wife. (Gen. 28)

Jacob has a dream where he sees angels ascending and descending a stairway to heaven and encounters the LORD. The Lord reminds Jacob of his blessing. Jacob erects a pillar in memorial of his encounter with God. (Gen 28:10-22)

Jacob arrives in Haran and meets Rachel, Laban’s daughter. (Gen. 29)

Laban agrees to Jacob staying and working for him the wages being the right to marry his daughter, Rachel. Jacob agrees to work for 7 years to marry

Rachel.

Laban tricks the trickster and gives him Leah, his older daughter, instead. (Gen. 29)

Jacob negotiates another 7 years service and receives Rachel as a second wife.

Jacob’s wives compete to be favored both by Jacob and the Lord. They and their maidservants, Bilhah and Zilpah, bear Jacob 12 sons.

Jacob longs to return home. The deceit continues between Laban and Jacob which ends in Jacob fleeing Haran with his wives, children, and flocks

which had been promised by Laban. A binding agreement is finally made and attested to, before God, for there to be a truce.(Gen. 29-31)

Jacob “prepares to meet Esau” and wrestles with God. (Gen. 32)

Jacob and Esau meet and make peace. (Gen. 33)

Key Points:

God’s pursuit is relentless, despite the schemes and dealings of humans. Jacob learns this the hard way.

God made Jacob a “Blessing to the Nations”, a means to glorify and honor his Name, when Jacob finally submitted.

Like Jacob we are flawed, yet the Lord relentlessly pursues us. He calls us to be a blessing to those we encounter thereby glorifying the Lord. Not for our glory, but His.

Questions to Ponder (from BibleProject Bible Study on Jacob: <https://bibleproject.com/bible-studies/reflections/wrestling-god/>)

1. What’s one thing you have chased after in life (i.e. approval, love, etc.)...and how have you chased after it?

2. Has God Himself already given or promised the very thing you’ve chased after in life?

3. How has God intervened in your life to help you receive his gifts?