

INTRODUCTION

1. The Great Commission in Lk 24:46-47 - God's grace to *all the nations*.
2. Creator's purpose - *bless* w/ life, elevated in Ab's *blessing* - Gn 12:1-3.
3. Isaac signals that God's blessing consists of resurrection life - promised & received by faith by Patriarchs & believing remnant of Israel.
 - i. Abraham promised 2 kinds of life: this age & age to come.
 - ii. Circumcision signifies both biologic & eschatological life. 2 Seeds of Gn 3:15 - seed of woman & serpent seen in Ab's family.
4. We read OT as disciples of Jesus - Lk 20:37-38 Patriarchs are alive!

1st: Isaac Blesses Jacob

1. "Jacob" - supplanter: devious, contriving - stole blessing that was promised to him! Gn 25:23 *older wld serve younger*
 - i. Gn 27:27-29 - creation blessing & Ab's blessing - v29 = Gn 12:3
 - ii. Esau set at enmity - resolves to kill Jcb [v42] - echoes of Cain & Abel.
2. Jacob departs for Haran w/ Isaac's blessing - Gn 28:1-4. *blessing of Ab*

2nd: The Lord Blesses Jacob: Jacob's Ladder

1. Jcb -> Haran & camps for nite & dreams of ladder to heaven w/ angels ascend/descend - 28:11-15
 - i. v13 *-beside him* [ftnt]: reiterates promise of land & seed
 - ii. v14 - repeats Gn 12:3 - *all families be blessed*
 - iii. v15 - Lord is w/ Jacob - YWHW is the actor [Rom 9:10-16]
 - iv. v16-22 "Bethel" [House of Go]; vows allegiance; tithe; memorializes
 - v. See Jn 1:51 - the mediating ladder is Jesus.
2. Chpt 29-31. Jacob in Haran: Leah & Rachel; barren & fecund

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3rd: The Lord Blesses Jacob and Renames Him "Israel"

1. 32:1-2 Jacob sees angels - *Mahanaim*: 2 companies = protect from Esau?
2. Jacob is at wits end v7 & prays: 32:9-12 recalls rev of ladder

- i. v13-23 backstory - hopes to propitiate [v20] Esau's anger: faces death
- ii. Jacob fears slaughter - Hb 5:7.
3. Jacob is given new name: *Israel* - 32:24-32
 - i. [Hos 12:2-6] Lord *spoke with us* at Bethel as Jacob wrestled angel & *wept and sought favor* - wrestling => prayer of persevering faith.
4. Gn 32:24 wrestles w/ a *man*. Not vision: smitten in *thigh*
 - i. Wrestle *til daybreak* - v26 & v31. Recalls angelic rescue of Lot from Sodom; faith's "dark night of the soul" - wrestle on, morning comes
5. v25 - ambiguity - *touch* [conquer, strike] & *thigh* - Ex 1:5 loins [v32].
6. v26 - Angel allows Jacob to *prevail* [v25]: Lord upholds Jacob as Jacob holds on to Lord - *I will not let you go unless you bless me*.
7. v27 remember name *Jacob* = supplanter - reminds of conniving character.
8. v28 - changes name to *Israel* - "princely prevailer w/ God" [Gn 17:5]
9. v29 - why name change? Importance of *-el* in *Israel* - God is in view. Cf. v30, 31 Peniel/Penuel = "face of God" - vision of ladder: *Bethel*.
 - i. Victor Hamilton: *Israel* means "El will rule [strive]" or "Let El rule" - not Jacob! Jacob wrestled but God preserved him!
 - ii. Jacob perseveres while Lord preserves.
10. v29 Jacob asks angel's name [Jgs 13:17-18; v22 *wonderful*]. Of whom have you asked for *blessing*? Israel = people of faith, blessed w/ res life.

Applic #1: See Depiction of Suffering & Resurrection of the Messiah

1. Jacob triumphs thru suffering a divinely inflicted wound - Gn 3:15
2. Tenacious faith evidenced in prayer.
3. Blessed by the Lord who gives Israel Himself in Bethel & Penuel

Applic #2: See How We Prove to be True Sons of Abraham

1. Strange victory - fang-pierced heels - like sheep to slaughter: in all these thgs we are more than conquers - union w/ Jesus in death & res: overcome
2. Lord preserves as we persevere; Lord wounds in order to bless - 1 Jn 3:2