

***“The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme, Genesis —  
The Sovereignty of God, Part 5”***

***Review: Wells of Living Water — God’s Sovereignty Displayed and Multiplied***

***God Sovereignly Blesses Isaac, the Son of Promise — Through Sand, Stars and  
Many Wells, Even, Wells of Living Water!***

- ***The Gift of a Son, Projected into the future — What about the Sand and the Stars?***
- ***The Well of Hagar and Ishmael, Beerlahairoi — Blessing through Great Trial***
- ***The Second Well of Hagar and Ishmael, BeerSheba — Blessings Multiplied***

***The blessings would come through much trial of soul and spirit and yet it is the work of the sovereign Lord to accomplish it. It is the same for our blessings under grace. Amen?***

- ***The Gift of a Son, Projected — What about the Sand and the Stars?***
  - ***The Stars & Sands promise is given repeatedly — for there are a number of references to this great promise, so centrally important to the descendants of Abraham, for their entire future would be based on it: Gen. 13:16, 15:5, 17:6, 22:17, 26:4, Deut. 1:10, Jer. 33:22***

***Gen. 22:15-18***

***15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,***

***16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:***

***17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;***

***18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.***

- ***The context here is very important and should be remembered. God had called Abram out of the Ur of the Chaldees, that is the land of Babylon, to leave all and to go where the Lord would lead him. The Lord then progressively one step at a time “showed him” that land and he dwelt where the Lord led him, a land was owned and controlled by others. But the promise was to him and to his offspring that he would in good time give it to them as a possession. For now,***

***though, they would only be “aliens and strangers”. Their privilege was to walk and live by faith, trials and tribulations notwithstanding.***

***But this land, or at least much of it, was dry and barren and mountainous without even roads or even worn trails in many places. So Abram’s challenge was to obey the Lord no matter what that might mean personally.***

***Everything depended on the provision of the Son of Promise and his offspring. So it was all very personal for Abram and Sarai as they lived day by day and hour by hour with the challenges this life presented. It was a walk of faith where God’s chosen ones would be learning of God’s sovereignty one step at a time.***

***Yes, the Lord’s creation was a great theme of Genesis, but perhaps the theme of his sovereignty over his own called forth from a world of sin and death is an even greater theme, if we dare elevate one over the other!***

- ***The challenge day by day and hour by hour, however, was found in the hearts of God’s chosen ones. For sin abounded, even in God’s called out ones. How would God work in such circumstances as they developed?***

***The parallels here with our own walk of faith are many, aren’t they? We cannot see the way forward well as Abram and Sarai could not either. By necessity it was one step at a time with the enemy roaring all about. But the Lord God was always with them and his sovereign will would be in the center of it all as his work ensured that the promises given would be kept, whatever his dear ones might do or say in the circumstances of the moment. Praise God!***

- ***The Well of Hagar and Ishmael, Beerlahairoi — Blessing through Great Trial***
- ***The Second Well of Hagar and Ishmael, BeerSheba — Blessings Multiplied***
  - ***So the fruit of their unbelief and sin would continue even though they should walk righteously before their God. So it is often the case in our lives as well. Let us see how the story continues for the sovereignty of God is written here in every line. For God is working in the midst of this grievous sin. We saw how the promise regarding the seed of the woman would always be challenged by Ishmael with his offspring nearby and continuing into our current day. Many***

*blessings would flow to these dear ones because of the promise of the land and the promised offspring likened to the grains of sand on the seashore and the stars in the heavens (and there was much sand and many stars to see here where the Lord God had led). But this will require much water as well for without that one cannot live in a dry and parched land like the land God had given to his chosen ones. As we shall now see, there would be “wells of living water” often provided.*

*Now, you will recall that in due time God gave again the promise of a son to Abram and Sarai and changed their names accordingly. And Sarah’s response was to cast out the bond woman and her son:*

- *Abraham was a man of the promise and of the covenant and his life revealed that at every turn, whether that involved his sojourning throughout the land of promise, his well digging, his offering up of his son, or his worship and fellowship even with angels and the pre-incarnate Son of God.*

*Isaac, on the other hand, was primarily a shepherd and a digger of many, many wells of living water at Beersheba.*

**Our Outline Today: How Jacob is Transformed By the Power of Almighty God, One Small Step at a Time:**

- *The Lord God Provides Isaac a Seed — Rebekah Delivers Twins*
- *The Lord God Preserves Jacob from Death — He is Delivered from Esau*
- *The Lord God Provides Jacob a Seed — Twelve Sons are Given to Him*
- *The Lord God Preserves Jacob Through Trial — He Renames Him Israel*

**I. The Lord God Provides Isaac a Seed — Rebekah Delivers Twins:**

**Gen. 25:20-34**

**20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.**

**21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.**

**22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If *it* be so, why *am* I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.**

**23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations *are* in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people**

shall be stronger than *the other* people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, *there were* twins in her womb.

25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac *was* threescore years old when she bare them.

27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob *was* a plain man, dwelling in tents.

28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of *his* venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 And Jacob *sod* pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he *was* faint:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red *pottage*; for I *am* faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

32 And Esau said, Behold, I *am* at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised *his* birthright.

- *There were twin sons born to Rebekah, Esau and Jacob, Esau the eldest and therefore the heir of his father Isaac. But due to the passions of the flesh, Esau sold his birthright, his inheritance, to Jacob simply for a pot of lentil soup! It seems impossible to believe, but it stands written in Genesis chapter 25.*
- *Then Jacob with his mother's help deceived his father by lying and cunning action. So Isaac gives Jacob his final blessings (with prophetic promises) though Isaac would have given them to Esau as his heart had dictated. Jacob was a thief as his given name indicated.*

## **II. The Lord God Preserves Jacob from Death — He is Delivered from Esau:**

- **Setting the scene:**

**Gen. 27:34-40**

**34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, *even* me also, O my father.**

**35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.**

**36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?**

**37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?**

**[READ ] Gen. 27:38-41**

**38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, *even* me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.**

**39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;**

**40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.**

**41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.**

**42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, *purposing* to kill thee.**

**Gen. 27:30-46**

**43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran;**

**44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;**

**45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget *that* which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?**

46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these *which* are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

- *With the immediate excuse of the threat against Jacob's life from Esau, Rebekah now intends for Jacob to go back to her homeland for safety from the threat of Esau — and for a wife.*
- *These birthrights and blessings are all dependent entirely on the earlier promises and prophecies being fulfilled, aren't they? Isaac was as his father had been before, sure of the promises of God and even sure of the blessings at end of life offered to his children. The blessings themselves are prophetic. God's sovereign will be accomplished. There is no room for doubt at all.*

*But would Jacob also have the same convictions of soul and spirit and if so, how would that sureness be obtained. That is the story now of many chapters here in Genesis. We will examine only a few key references:*

### **III. The Lord God Provides Jacob a Seed — Twelve Sons are Given to Him:**

- *So, beginning now this long affair, Jacob's father Isaac blesses his son and renews the promise of Abraham given initially to him and now passed on to Jacob. All of this highlights the sovereignty of Almighty God over his called out ones:*

**[READ ] Gen. 28:1-5**

**1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.**

**2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.**

**3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;**

**4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.**

**5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.**

- *Just as Abraham had sent back to Haran for a wife for Isaac, Isaac now sends Jacob back as well. But he has no idea what event will initiate his journey and change his life forever:*

**Gen. 28:10-17**

10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not.

17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! this *is* none other but the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven.

- *This will change Jacob's life as we shall see. He memorializes this place by now building his first altar:*

**[READ ] Gen. 28:18-22**

18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first.

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

- ***What seems most significant here is not the building of the altar itself, but rather his vow: “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”***
- ***This is a very large “if” here. What we shall see as we read on is that in the trial of his life, he recognized increasingly that the Lord God, the God of his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac WOULD BE with him and would provide for and protect him. But now for the next phase of the story:***
- ***This sacred history continues and will now become long and complex. For gaining a wife and then sons (and there will be twelve when it is done) will take some years. Rebekah's hopes, dreams, and prayers for her son Jacob were all dependent on his marrying and bringing forth children. The promises of God depended on it. We enter chapter 29 with Jacob now well along in his journey to the “fatherland”, as it were, where the others of his family lived still that had not gone forth with Abraham into the land of the promise ...***

#### **Gen. 29:1-6**

1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.

2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.

3 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.

4 And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we.

5 And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know *him*.

**6 And he said unto them, *Is he well?* And they said, *He is well:* and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.**

- ***The stage is now set for Jacob's marriage and the fulfillment by God of his family heritage. But would it go as he had thought it would?***



**[READ ] Gen. 29:9-11**

**9** And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them.

**10** And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

**11** And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

**Gen 29:16-20**

**16** And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

**17** Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

**18** And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

**19** And Laban said, *It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.*

**20** And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her.

**Gen. 29:31** And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.

- *Now begins the long section here where eleven of Jacob's children will be born, not through these two wives of Leah and Rachel alone, but by their servants as well ... We will only look at a few key verses today, turning points, one might say ...*

**[READ ] Gen. 30:1-2**

**1** And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.

**2** And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, *Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?*

- *Similarly to his grandfather Abraham, Jacob and his wives will now "engineer" a large family, not content with what the Lord provided ... Six sons and a daughter are their offspring:*

**Gen. 30:9** When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife.

**Gen. 30:20** And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun.

**[READ ] Gen. 30:22-24**

**22** And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

**23** And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:

**24** And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son. [By many miracles, Jacob prospers!]

**[READ ] Gen. 30:43** And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

**Chapter 31 - More miracles bless Jacob and he departs at God's commandment:**

**Gen. 31:3** And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

...

**Gen. 31:36-42**

**36** And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What *is* my trespass? what *is* my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me?

**37** Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set *it* here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both.

**38** This twenty years *have* I *been* with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten.

**39** That which was torn *of beasts* I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, *whether* stolen by day, or stolen by night.

**40** *Thus* I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes.

**41** Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times.

**42** Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked *thee* yesternight.

- ***So the Lord God was sovereign in Jacob's life though the manifestations of his flesh often dominated, whether through fear of death, the taking of his wives handmaidens, or other means. Depending on the Lord God was something that Jacob had to learn, one step at a time. He saw that God was working around him in so many miraculous ways. But to put his trust in him and not turn to his own devices was a difficult life to live. But he was on that path and God would now intersect directly with him in ways that would mark him forever.***

#### **IV. The Lord God Preserves Jacob Through Trial — He Renames Him Israel:**

- ***Jacob again turns to human means to fulfill the Lord's plan for him, really! Chapters 31 & 32 are all about Jacob's fear of Esau and his flight for safety for his family — but the Lord God had often intersected with his life and now would again in a way that would change his life forever:***

**Gen. 31:5** And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me.

**Gen. 31:42** Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight.

- ***The Lord God HAD been with him all the way in Laban's domain. But the greatest trial of his life was now near. How would Jacob respond?***

**[READ ] Gen. 32:9-12**

**9** And Jacob said, **O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac**, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

**10** I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

**11** Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, *and* the mother with the children.

12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

- *But Jacob's trials of faith are not over. In fact, they have reached their peak, it seems:*

**Gen. 32:22-31**

22 And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.

23 And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

27 And he said unto him, What *is* thy name? And he said, Jacob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

29 And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore *is it that* thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

31 And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

32 Therefore the children of Israel eat not *of* the sinew which shrank, which *is* upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

- *And so from now on Jacob must support himself with his staff as he walks. It would therefore become not only that mark of his authority as patriarch over his family, but also a mark of his life-transforming encounter with the pre-incarnate Son of God!! Amen.*
- *By way of application, I could ask each of us to consider whether we also have encountered the Lord of glory. Have we been marked as well as a result? Paul had as is written in Gal. 6:*

**Gal. 6:17-18**

**17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.**

**18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.**

- *We finish today with a bold statement as to how the sovereign Lord God did bless Jacob and his family though Jacob was a sinner but as we have seen and will continue to see in our next study, Lord willing, a saved sinner. What is written here for us consider?*

**[READ ] Gen. 33:1-4**

**1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids.**

**2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindmost.**

**3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.**

**4 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.**

- *The wait was long and many fears have paved the way. But the Lord has sovereignly intersected with Esau as well and has changed his hardened heart to gloriously! Praise his name. Amen.*

**Gen. 33:16-20**

**16 So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir.**

**17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.**

**18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which *is* in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.**

**19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.**

**20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.**

- *So Jacob builds and altar as truly he had become an altar builder, had he not? And he names it Elelohe-Israel, which means "The God, the God of Israel. But Israel is Jacob. So Jacob has now taken the God of his fathers as his own, finally. Amen.*

- ***We will begin here next time, Lord willing. Jacob has become a builder of altars as his father was a digger of wells and his grandfather combined all, a digger of wells and a builder of altars to the Living God.***