

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

QUESTION #6b – Questions About Jacob – Part Two

Gen 25- Gen 34

I am confused about why God favors Jacob. Jacob seems a bit underhanded at times:

--Gen 25: 30-35: Shouldn't Jacob have given Esau soup for nothing if he was hungry? After all they were bothers, but even if they were not, it seems like a pretty unfair proposal, soup for his birthright....

--Gen 27: 18-29: Jacob lied to his father 4 times to steal the blessing (if you count the animal skin on his hands as a lie). No matter it was his mother's idea – he still lied and stole.

--Gen 28:13-15: Right after those performances, God gives Jacob the inheritance of all he promised Abraham. WHY???

--THEN, Gen 30: 31-43 & 1-43 Jacob and Laban. They both seem to accuse the other of cheating. Jacob just appears more clever...The deal with the spotted cattle (30:32-42) does not seem quite right... neither really appears innocent in all this???? But God STILL seems to favor Jacob --

--AND THEN, Gen 34: Seems like Levi and Simeon went back on the deal they made with Hamor and killed his whole family , and Jacob's only concern about this (34:30) was that it made him look bad and that he might be a target himself as a result. He did not seem the least bit concerned that Levi and Simeon broke the bargain and murdered everyone. BUT EVEN SO, Jacob is blessed again in 35:10.

Gen 32: 24-32: What is the meaning of the wrestling match? One preacher says Jacob's opponent is pre-incarnate Jesus.... What is the contest for? Why does Jacob end up blessed (32:28-30)- AGAIN??

JACOB – Background

- Son of Isaac and twin brother of Esau – Genesis 25:24-26
- Name means: *one that supplants, undermines*

- “Supplant” means = to trip up the heels; to remove or displace by strategy; to displace and take the place of
- OR – another word for “supplanter” would be *DECEIVER*
- Grandson of Abraham

FOLLOW UP FROM LAST WEEK

Genesis 25:19-24

- ✚ God promised Rebekah it would be Jacob (the younger) that would be stronger.
- ✚ It was God’s plan to use Jacob.
- ✚ There may be several reasons why God picked Jacob.
- ✚ God already promised Rebekah – but she decided she needed to “help” God work his plan.
 - God would have accomplished His plan – He did not need Rebekah’s help.
 - You have to also consider the foreknowledge of God.
 - Esau lived for the present
 - Esau was concerned about the flesh
 - Yes – Jacob was a deceiver, but he had a tender heart for God and loved God
 - God was teaching us all a lesson – God can use anybody He wants, in spite of their character flaws and imperfections.
 - Malachi 1:1-3
- ✚ Another example: Abraham and Sarah
 - God promised to multiply Abraham
 - Sarah got nervous and decided to “help God” out with His plan with telling Abraham to go unto Hagar (Genesis 16:1-4)

THE WRESTLING MATCH WITH GOD

Gen 32: 24-32: What is the meaning of the wrestling match? One preacher says Jacob's opponent is pre-incarnate Jesus.... What is the contest for? Why does Jacob end up blessed (32:28-30)- AGAIN??

V. 24

- The Bible doesn't record how the wrestling match actually started
- It lasted throughout the night

V. 25 -

- Jacob was the weaker of the two
- *"...that he prevailed not against him..."*



POSSIBLE LESSON TO THE WRESTLING MATCH

For probably one of the first and only times in his life – Jacob – the great deceiver and manipulator – found himself in a rare situation that he could control and manipulate to his advantage.

He was at the mercy and strength of another.

You cannot depend on your wisdom and flesh to bring you the victory.



- Not only did Jacob not prevail – he had to be WEAKENED.
- He was brought to the end of self!
- II Corinthians 12:10 –

✚ V. 26 –

- Jacob, realizing he was not going to go away with a victory decided he still wanted to go away with a blessing.
- Possibly as some kind of “consolation prize” for the rare occasion in his life of not winning, he could still come away with getting something.

✚ V. 28-29 –

- God indeed blesses Jacob
- Changes his name to Israel (“*contender with God*”).
- The question is asked – “Why does Jacob end up blessed AGAIN?”
 - It again all goes back to God’s plan in using Jacob to establish a mighty nation.
 - God keeping His word to Isaac.
 - God promising Rebekah the elder would serve the younger.
 - The benefits of the owner of the birthright.

✚ V. 29-30 –

➤ **QUESTION: Who was the “man” Jacob wrestled with?**

- Possibility #1: an angel
- Possibility #2: a pre-incarnate appearing of Jesus Christ
- There is no OBVIOUS answer (some would say the use of “m” instead of “M” in ‘man’ means it was probably an angel”
- BUT – v.30 – Jacob says “...for I have seen God face to face...”
- Draw your own conclusion!