

THE BLESSING THAT GOD INTENDED!
GENESIS CH28:1-9

ILLUSTRATION

The Book of Genesis can be divided into two sections:

1. Primitive History - Ch1-11
2. Patriarchal History - Ch12-50

- (1) The Foundations (Genesis Ch1-2)
- (2) The Fall of man (Genesis Ch3-5)
- (3) The Flood (Genesis Ch6-9)
- (4) The Foolish (Genesis Ch10-11)
- (5) The Family (Patriarchal history records the lives of four covenantal men):
 - Abraham (Genesis Ch12:1-Ch25:8)
 - Isaac (Genesis Ch21:1-8; Ch25:9-Ch28:9; Ch35:27-29)
 - Jacob (Genesis Ch25:24-Ch50:14)
 - Joseph (Genesis Ch30:22-Ch50:26)

Can we have a “clap - ometer” please?

Rachel-Christine appeared recently in her School production of “Annie” at Bishop Vaughan School. The audience clapped at different times throughout the production, but at the end of the production there were prolonged “rounds of applause”, where the audience clapped the loudest and longest for those whom they deemed to have acted “really well”!

Who would we “clap” for here? Who has acted well?

In relation to the twins, Kent Hughes says “Here we must remember that while it is true that neither Jacob nor Esau had acted well anywhere in the narrative, there was a polar difference between the two. Esau had only a surface interest in the promise and was faithless. But Jacob believed in God's word and treasured the promise. Yet his faith was incomplete, because he did not believe that the promise would be his apart from his own self-directed actions. As a result, the next twenty years were going to be necessarily hard on him” (Kent Hughes, Commentary on Genesis, page 358).

Let's unwrap this together so that we can see why!

ISAAC DIRECTS JACOB! V1-2

Again in the opening verses of this chapter the word “Bless” or a variation of it occurs, 5 times (v1, v3, v4, v6 x2)! Remember that in the previous chapter the word “Bless” or a variation of it appeared a total of 23 times in 46 verses! Ch27:4, 7, 10, 12, 19, 23, 25, 27 (x2), 29 (x2), 30, 31, 33 (x2), 34, 35, 36 (x2), 38 (x2), + 41 (x2)! **28 times in 55 verses!**

Remember what Ian said a few weeks back about the word “Blessing” (barak)? “Blessing” - is an “action” verb, meaning, the Lord is actively bestowing upon us His favour! That is, God's goodness to us! God blesses Abraham Gen Ch12:1-3 with His favour, God blesses Isaac Ch25:11 with His favour, and now through Isaac, Jacob Ch27:27-29 + Ch18:1-5!

So why the issue of “bless” again?

V1 – Isaac called Jacob in

V1 – Isaac blessed him and directed him

V1 – You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women (Like Abraham instructed his most trusted servant Eliezer in relation to Isaac Ch24:1-9; Like Esau had Ch26:34-35 who were descendants from Heth, Canaan's second son Gen Ch10:15 + 1st Chron Ch1:13)

V2 – Directed about Geography!

V2 – Directed about which Family to go to!

V2 – Directed about what girls to consider for marriage!

ISAAC BLESSES JACOB! V3-5

- Isaac uses “God Almighty” - “*El Shaddai*” first used Ch17:1 with Abraham, then here with Jacob Ch28:3 and used in Ch35:11, Ch43:14 + Ch48:3! **A GENERAL BLESSING, ONE OF PROSPERITY!**
- God blesses Abraham – Ch12:1-3, Ch13:15-17, Ch15:1-6, Ch17:4-8, Ch22:17, Ch24:7 **A SPECIFIC COVENANTAL BLESSING!**
- God Blesses Isaac – Ch26:3-4 + 24
- God Blesses Jacob – Ch28:3-4 **WITH THE SAME SPECIFIC COVENANTAL BLESSING AS ABRAHAM CH12:1-3!**
- v3 you are to be fruitful and multiply
- v3 you are to become a company of people
- V4 you will return to this land (Ch49:28-33) that God promised to Bampi (Abraham)
- The covenant continues from Abraham, to Isaac, now to Jacob!

So Jacob left, but with no material goods (Ch26:13), however, he left with the greater blessing, the covenant of God. God's unfolding plan continues to unfold!

ISAAC'S ESAU STILL SEEKS BLESSING! V6-9

“The rivalry between Jacob and Esau continues even after Jacob's departure as Esau, learning of his father's instructions to Jacob not to marry a Canaanite wife, marries into the family of Ishmael. However, the real blessing remains with God's chosen servant Jacob, whom Isaac sends to Paddan-aram with the blessing first given to Abraham” (A. Steinmann, Tyndale Commentary on Genesis page 272).

APPLICATION

1. How in our Gospel Community, can we bless one another?
2. What do you understand the meaning of Matthew Ch12:22-37?
3. V34 makes it clear that it is a heart issue that results in evil words!
4. V36 makes it clear that those words are recorded and people will give an account for them!
5. V37 makes it clear that those words which result in blaspheming (the violation or misuse of something considered holy/sacred) will condemn a person!
6. V32 makes me hesitate, Jesus is not saying that blaspheming against the Holy Spirit has been committed!
7. For the Pharisees, because they are refusing to see that the power of JESUS is through the work of “THE SPIRIT OF GOD (V28)” they are unwilling to repent of their sins, and refuse to accept the gift of “**REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO FORGIVENESS.**”
8. The blasphemy against the work of the Spirit of God is the result of gradual progress in sin, causing the grieving of the Spirit (Eph Ch4:30), if unrepented of, leads to resisting the Spirit (Acts Ch7:51), which if persisted in, develops a quenching of the Spirit (1 Thess Ch5:19), leaving a person, alienated, guilty and facing the full wrath of God's judgement in their rejection of grace offered through CHRIST!