GOD MEETS JACOB AT BETHEL

Genesis 28:10-31:55 Lesson 15

Key Verses: 28:20-22

1. ***The God of Bethel*** (28:10-22)
2. Why did Jacob leave home, and where was he going? (27:41-45; 28:1,2,10) How did he spend his first night away from home? (11) What concerns were on his mind? (20,21) Describe his dream (12,13a). What did a stairway to heaven, with angels traveling up and down on it, at that particular place, mean to Jacob? (16,17)
3. In the dream, what did God say to Jacob? (13b-15) How were his promises similar to the ones he made to Abraham and Isaac? (12:2,3,7a; 13:14-17; 26:3,4) What was God’s bigger plan? (14b; Gal3:7-9) What can we learn about God who appeared to Jacob?
4. Look again at Jacob’s response to his dream (16,17). Why did he suddenly wake up from it? What had his relationship with God been like up to this point? (27:20b) Why is it important to experience the presence of the living God? What did Jacob do early the next morning? (18,19) What does “Bethel” mean? What did the stone pillar mean? The oil?
5. What did Jacob do next? (20a) Why do you think he suddenly made a vow? Read the contents of his vow (20b-22). When did he address God personally? (22b) What did Jacob want from God? What was he promising to God? Why was he making his commitment conditional? In light of all God had promised him (13b-15), in what sense was Jacob’s vow bad? Good?
6. ***The God of Paddan Aram*** (29-31)
7. When Jacob arrived, what did he see? (29:2) When would the shepherds move the stone? (3) What did Jacob ask them and why? (4-6) What did he find out about Rachel? What advice did he give? (7) Why? How did they respond? (8) What did he do when he saw Rachel? (10) Why? What else did he do? (11) What does this show about him?
8. How and why did his uncle Laban welcome Jacob? (13,14) What did he offer? (15) How are Leah and Rachel described? (16,17) What wages did Jacob ask for? (18) Why? How did Laban respond? (19) How is Jacob’s time there described? (20) What can we learn from him?
9. How and why did Laban deceive Jacob? (21-27) How did Jacob respond to this? (28-30) How was he being unfair to Leah? What does this show about his character?
10. How did God respond to Leah’s situation? (31) What did she name her first son, what did it mean, and why did she do that? (32) What did she name her next three sons? (33-35) Why did she give up on getting Jacob’s love? What shows her contentment in God? (35)
11. How did Rachel react? (30:1) Why? How did Jacob respond? (2) How did Rachel plot to catch up? (3) What did she say about Bilhah’s first son? (4-6) Her second son? (7,8) How did Leah respond? (9-13) Why did Rachel want the mandrakes? (14) What son did Leah have as a result of this? (15-18) What did she name her sixth son? (19,20) How did Rachel have a son? (22-24)
12. How many sons did Jacob have in total? Why did God allow all this? How was he working even in the midst of these human struggles?
13. Why did Jacob want to leave after Joseph was born? (25,26) Why did uncle Laban want to keep him? (27) How did they settle on Jacob’s wages? (28-34) What further trick did Laban pull? (35,36) How did Jacob respond, and with what results? (37-43)
14. What did Jacob learn about Laban and his sons? (31:1,2) What did God tell him? (3) What speech did Jacob give Leah and Rachel to persuade them to leave with him? (4-13) Why did God remind Jacob of his vow? How did his wives respond? (14-16) How did Jacob take his family and leave, and what was wrong with his doing it this way? (17-21)
15. How did Laban pursue Jacob? (22,23) How did God warn him? (24) How did Laban confront Jacob? (25-30) How were the household gods concealed? (31-35) What does this reveal about Rachel? How did Jacob confront Laban? (36-42) How did he describe his life under Laban? To whom did he attribute his success? (42)
16. How did Laban respond? (43,44) What was the meaning of the stone heap? (45-53a) How and why did Jacob take an oath? (53b,54) Describe Laban’s final departure (55). In Paddan Aram how had God kept his promises to Jacob? What was he doing in Jacob’s life? What can we learn about God in his dealings with Jacob thus far?