

**"The Attack on the Heir and His Family Continues:
Personal Commitments Give Way to a Profound Faith - Part 1"**

Review:

- ***Last time, we saw how The Attack on The Heir and His Family through Famine Ended in Satan's Total Failure even though our father Abraham so dramatically failed in his walk:***
 - ***Abram had left Ur of the Chaldees when he was called by God, and then had left Haran with great blessing, journeying into the land God had promised, where he lived and worshiped in a life of utmost simplicity, it seemed.***
 - ***God prospered Abram in the land but did allow a great challenge into Abram's life. There came a famine on the land and its peoples. Would Abram trust God in this great challenge of life or would Abram use his own ingenuity, wealth, wisdom and human strength to save himself and his family?***
 - ***God also had prospered Isaac, but Isaac also fell to temptation and we read of what we might call "Isaac's Philistine Deception" as well as he gave his dear wife Rebecca to Abimelech, king of the Philistines.***
 - ***However (and we should not be the least surprised about this), as we read in our last fellowship, God was faithful to his earlier promises to Abraham regarding the Seed of the Woman. He preserved Isaac and his family just as he had his father Abraham.***

Transition:

Now, as we proceed, Jacob is sent off for a wife by Isaac back to the land of his ancestors in Haran, to Laban, his mother Rebecca's brother. Rebecca's words at the end of chapter 27 speak volumes regarding her state of mind that has led to this event:

Gen 27:46 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?

Let us see how this develops. The “few days” of verse 44 will turn into many years as Satan’s plot to destroy the family of the Seed of the Woman is brought to pass -- but, God’s plan and will succeed can never be defeated, as we shall see. . .

Our Outline Today:

- 1. *The Stage is Set for Jacob’s Destruction through Esau***
- 2. *The Plan is Thwarted for Jacob’s Destruction through Esau***
- 3. *A New Plan is Formed for Jacob’s Eventual Destruction through Laban***

I. *The Stage is Set for Jacob’s Destruction through Esau*

[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.

- *We see here in these verses that the stage is set for the total destruction of the Seed of the Woman. Satan knew that that seed would come through Isaac and now knows that it will come through Jacob, since Esau has sold his birthright and has lost now the blessing of his father as well. So Satan will scheme to now destroy Jacob.***
- *Murder will be his selected tool in this grand war against God and his plan of redemption through the Seed of the Woman.***

II. *The Plan is Thwarted for Jacob’s Destruction through Esau*

[READ] Gen. 27:41-44

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.

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 . . .

- ***So Almighty God interferes with Esau's plan and full intention to kill his brother Jacob. Esau has "said in his heart" that he would kill his brother. But the Lord God heard what Esau's heart had said and he then revealed it somehow to Rebecca who prepared an alternative plan.***
- ***Let's see now in the following verses how well this plan works . . . As we shall see, this portion of the inspired record is a 'long and difficult road', at least for Jacob.***

[READ] Gen. 28:1-4

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.

- ***So Isaac agrees with Rebecca's plan and sends Jacob away. Note that he is fully convinced that this plan will allow the accomplishment of the Seed of the Woman promise through his son Jacob.***
- ***In this Isaac has clearly seen the working of Almighty God in selecting Jacob over Esau as the next generation in the Lord's***

working to accomplish the Gen. 3:15 promise made approximately 2000 years before to Adam and Eve.

- *But little do Isaac and Rebecca know of how God will accomplish this. Satan is not finished yet and will be a mighty foe still, as we shall see, as he works to overcome the work of God, now through Jacob.*

[Your comments?]

III. Satan Prepares A New Plan for Jacob's Eventual Destruction

You will remember the next event to occur as we ended with that in our last fellowship together. Jacob is now on his long retreat to Haran, the land of his mother's family.

[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.

- ***Note here that Jacob makes a vow that he will take the God of his father and grandfather to be his own God IF God preserves him and brings him back safely into this land. This is so revealing about Jacob's faith at this point, is it not?***
- ***And he builds an altar to the God of his father and grandfather here, looking forward that day in the future. God is not finished with Jacob yet, as we shall see.***

[READ] 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.

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.

- ***So we have a deception indeed in the making here, as Laban passes off his eldest daughter Leah first to Jacob, and then, seven years later, finally Rachel is given over to marriage with Jacob. Fourteen years pass and then another six for a total of twenty years, during which time many sons are born and daughters as well, and God greatly prospers Jacob in voluntary servitude to Laban all this time.***
- ***Laban clearly has ulterior motives in all of this. But God overrules all of that and blesses Jacob over a 20 year period living much as an indentured servant in Laban's household.***

Gen. 29:28 “. . . And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.”

...

- *The story continues into chapter 30 and many sons are born to Jacob through Leah while Rachel remained barren. Finally, Joseph, Rachel's first born is brought forth as God opens her womb. At this point, Jacob pleads with Laban for his release, that he may take his family and his possessions back to the land that God had promised. But it shall not be so easy to leave. You recall how that story developed. Seven years of servitude for Leah and seven more for Rachel.*
- *And now Laban has a new plan that will delay Jacob's release for even more years, and six more years pass . . . but God prospers Jacob miraculously, leading to our final scriptures for today:*

[READ] Gen. 31:1-55 (selected)

1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory.

2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before.

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

4 And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock,

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.

6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.

7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.

...

13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

...

17 Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels;

18 And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan.

19 And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.

20 And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told

him not that he fled.

21 So he fled with all that he had; and he rose up, and passed over the river, and set his face toward the mount Gilead.

22 And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled.

23 And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him seven days' journey; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead.

24 And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.

. . .

29 It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.

. . .

42 [And Jacob said] . . . 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.

43 And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and these cattle are my cattle, and all that thou seest is mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born?

44 Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee.

45 And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar.

46 And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap.

47 And Laban called it Jegarsahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed.

48 And Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed;

49 And Mizpah; for he said, The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.

50 If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt take other wives beside my daughters, no man is with us; see, God is witness betwixt me and thee.

51 And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold this pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee;

52 This heap be witness, and this pillar be witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this

heap and this pillar unto me, for harm.

53 [May] ... the God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob sware by the fear of his father Isaac.

54 Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount.

55 And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place.

...

===>>> Gen 32:1 And Jacob went on his way,
and the angels of God met him. <<<===

- *So far at least, Esau's plan to kill his brother has been in suspension and now Laban, who has the power to kill Jacob, is warned by God not to interfere.*
- *So what have we seen here? Jacob was blessed by Almighty God in accordance with God's promises to Abraham and Isaac, even though he had not come to trust **VERY PERSONALLY AT ALL** the True and Living God himself for his safety.*
- *Satan's schemes intended to destroy both Jacob and the Seed of the Woman ultimately fail and the Lord God is victorious. God uses supernatural means to thwart Satan's plans and here Jacob and his family are blessed through all of it, as had been Isaac and Abraham.*
- *But, isn't it striking that Jacob continues throughout this portion of his life to refer to the Lord God as "the God of his father and grandfather", or he attributes his blessings to "the fear of his father Isaac". Clearly God is not through with him yet, we might say.*
- **INDEED, JACOB'S LIFE IS MUCH LIKE OURS HAS BEEN. GOD WATCHED OVER EACH OF US SO CAREFULLY WHEN WE HAD YET NOT REALLY TAKEN HIM PERSONALLY AS OUR GOD. AND YET WITH SO MUCH MERCY AND GRACE, HE BORE WITH US IN ALL OF**

OUR FOLLIES. SO IT WAS WITH JACOB. BUT, AS JUST NOTED, GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH JACOB YET. HE IS NOT FINISHED WITH US YET EITHER, PRAISE GOD. OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.

[Any final comments or questions?]

Our outline has been:

1. ***The circumstances:*** In "the fullness of time", Isaac, the son of the promise was born and then, again at the right time, Jacob was born; Satan will attack Jacob knowing full well that through him would the "seed" be brought forth ("the elder shall server the younger" - Gen. 25:23)
2. ***Satan's tool:*** Now both God's & Satan's plan would involve Laban, Jacob's uncle; God's tool of blessing would be used by Satan against him
3. ***His "strategy":*** Human greed and anger would (again) be Satan's tool
4. ***Satan's "victory":*** By tempting Rachel to steal her father's idols, he set the stage for her father's plot to steal back the riches that God had given Jacob while in his employ and apparently even to kill Jacob (and his sons?)
5. ***God's intervention:*** God worked (again) through an unbeliever by a dream to thwart the enemy's purpose and accomplish his own
6. ***Satan's defeat:*** Out of fear of Almighty God Laban changed his mind regarding Jacob and made an oath to live in peace with him
7. ***God's encouragement:*** God showed much mercy to Jacob & Rachel in spite of their rebellion; and so he does for us time and again.

Next time, Lord willing, we will see how Jacob's faith begins to be very personal indeed!