

September 22, 2013

Lesson 3: Jacob's Dream

Genesis 27:1-4,15-23; 28:10-17

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, 'My son'; and he answered, 'Here I am.' He said, 'See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die.'

Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob; and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she handed the savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob.

So he went in to his father, and said, 'My father'; and he said, 'Here I am; who are you, my son?' Jacob said to his father, 'I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me.' But Isaac said to his son, 'How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?' He answered, 'Because the Lord your God granted me success.' Then Isaac said to Jacob, 'Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.' So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, 'The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.' He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.



Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

Jacob's Dream

Genesis 27:1-4,15-23; 28:10-17

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The Big Story Truth: God's promise continues! Just as God promised to Abraham children and land and God's provision was for Isaac, now God gives the promise to another generation- Jacob!

About this Scripture Passage: This Scripture passage carries God's promise and provision into another generation. Isaac, Abraham's son, grew up and got married. God provided for he and his wife to have twins! In this time period, normally the older son was the one to receive all the inheritance. In this case, God chose that the promised land and blessing would continue on not through the oldest son, Esau, but through the younger- Jacob. In Scripture God often chooses the younger, or the unlikely, person to be the one through whom God works. In

this case, Rebekah uses trickery to get Isaac to bless Jacob... which accomplishes what God has already said. The promise of God will continue now through Abraham's grandson, Jacob.



Making the Connection: God made special promises to Abraham's family that through them God would bless the whole world. God kept that promise by sending Jesus, one of the great-great-great-great-great (and so on) grandsons of Abraham. Because we believe in Jesus, we get to be part of God's family too. Sometimes people who believe in God are called "children of Abraham." It's a way of remembering that God was faithful to Abraham and all of his descendants and that God is faithful to us too! What's important for the kids to hear today is that they too have been made part of God's family!

Where in the World Are We? We're told in our reading that Jacob was on the road between Beer-sheba and Haran. Just after our reading, Jacob says that the place he had stopped was named Luz at first, but that he will name it Bethel (meaning House of God).

For Your Reflection:

What places have been significant for you as places where God has shown up in your life?



