



Genesis – 28:1-28:22  
Surely the Lord is in This Place!  
(Lesson #37)

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Outline for this week:

- Isaac blesses Jacob again (28:1-5)
- Esau marries a third wife (28:6-9)
- Jacob leaves Beersheba for Haran (28:10)
- Jacob encounters Yahweh in a dream (28:11-17)
- Jacob makes vows to Yahweh (28:18-22)

*27:46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"* **28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. 2 Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. 3 God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.**

**Vs 27:46-28:1** – So Rebekah goes to Isaac, concerned for what she has heard about Esau, about how he intends to kill Jacob after the time of mourning for Isaac passes. The great irony, Isaac is no where close to dying.

Rebekah tells Isaac that she already “loathes her life” because of these Hittite women and if Jacob were to marry a Hittite woman, one of these cursed Canaanite women “what good were her life be to her.” She is like if Jacob marries one of these Hittite women what reason is there for me to go on living. I would wish myself dead.

Isaac calls for Jacob, there does not appear to be any discussion about the deception, rather here Isaac, once again, blesses Jacob. This time he does it decidedly and on purpose. We suspect that others may be present when he executes this blessing.

We will see the contents of that blessing in a second. But it seems that Isaac is embracing God's truth and God's plan. We might say that he is growing spiritually.

**APPLICATION:** I hope we each see this in our lives. I hope we are men and women who are growing in our understanding of the Scriptures, growing in our ability to apply the scriptures, growing in our faith. I hope we are ever growing in knowledge and wisdom.

It appears, at least on the surface that Isaac has embraced God's plan!

*“And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”” (Ge 25:23 ESV)*

Then Isaac **directs Jacob**, he **tells him**, he **commands him**: *You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women.* This reminds us of the **command that Abraham gave Eliezer**:

*“1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, 3 that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell,” (Ge 24:1-3 ESV)*

Here Isaac is telling his son, you **MUST NOT** take a wife from these Canaanite women. They were a **people cursed by God**, for their sin, who largely worshipped **false gods**.

Andy Woods in his sermon said: **“the problem of the Canaanites is not their skin, but it is their sin!”**

## APPLICATION:

*“14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (2Co 6:14-16 ESV)*

This is of course applied to marriage, but its application is larger than that. It applies to any close relationship. For what we have seen is that generally, what happens is the unbeliever ends up pulling down the believer.

But here, Issac is telling Jacob to not marry a Canaanite, but instead...

**Vs 2** - Arise and go to Paddan-aram, this the region around the town of Haran.

But more specifically than just going to Haran, go to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father and take a wife from one of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.

It seems they were keeping track of the family in Haran, no surprise, and they had learned that Bethuel’s son (Laban) who is also Rebekah’s brother has had at least two daughters.

Again, this is very similar to what Abraham directed Eliezer:

*“3 that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, 4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” (Ge 24:3-4 ESV)*

**Vs 3** - Here Isaac begins to invoke the blessing once again on Jacob. This is in a way a rehash of the blessing he has already offered, but worthy of us walking through it.

**First, – May God Almighty... Need to stop here!**

God Almighty are the Hebrew words אֱלֹהִים (‘el) and שַׁדַּי (Shadday).

It is **God Almighty**, it is **God Most Powerful**, it is the **Mighty God!**

Now we have seen this title before, when Abraham was 99, the year before Isaac was born. God appeared to Abraham and gave him the mark of the covenant, the mark of circumcision. Here is what we read:

*“When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,” (Ge 17:1 ESV)*

Here, Yahweh identified himself to Abraham as **El Shadday**, here Issac is referring to Yahweh by **that very same name**.

This is one of the many names of God in Genesis, this one highlights his power. He is the **all-powerful, unstoppable, mighty God**. That is who we serve!

Back to our text, as Issac blesses Jacob, he invokes what looks like **six blessings** from El Shadday.

**Blessing #1 - El Shadday bless you! May the creator of the universe bless!**

## APPLICATION:

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,” (Eph 1:3 ESV)*

If you are a believer, God has blessed you, God has withheld nothing from you, you are richly blessed, God has opened up the storehouse of blessing to you. **You are blessed!**

**Blessing #2 - El Shadday *make you fruitful***

Now I suspect this blessing of being fruitful is immediately connected with producing children. But I also suspect it goes much deeper than that.

**APPLICATION:** I would just say God desires your to be fruitful too!

*"22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Ga 5:22-23 ESV)*

You see God desires to see the fruit of the Spirit grow and increase in our lives. He desires us to be fruitful.

**Blessing #3 - El Shadday *multiply you.***

Here is the multiplication of Jacob's descendants, analogized as the stars of the sky or the sand of the seashore. **El Shadday, multiple you!**

**APPLICATION:** But this promise of multiplication does not end with Jacob. God desires to multiply us and our message here at FB First! God is multiplying believers right here at FB First and we should praise him for it!

If we put it in the **Lord's hands**, he will **multiply it** (think about the young lad's two fish and five loaves)!

**Blessing #4 - El Shadday make you *become a company of peoples.***

This is the promise of the nation of Israel which will come from Jacob.

***4 May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!" 5 Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.***

**Vs 4 – Blessing #5 – El Shadday give you the blessing of Abraham to you and your offspring. May God give you all the rich blessing promised to Abraham.**

**Blessing #6 – El Shadday allow you to **take possession of the land** that God gave to Abraham! May El Shadday give you and your descendants the land He promised to Abraham!**

This should all sound very familiar!

*"1 ¶ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Ge 12:1-3 ESV)*

*"Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him." (Ge 12:7 ESV)*

In these verses **Isaac clearly and purposely** conveys the **Abrahamic covenant** and **its associated blessing upon Jacob**. It appears that Isaac is fully onboard with God's plan to maintain the Abrahamic covenant though Jacob.

**Vs 5 -** With Isaac's and more importantly God's blessings, Isaac sends Jacob away.

Jacob sets out for Paddan-aram, a journey of roughly **450 miles** as a **crow flies** and at best he has a couple of donkeys or camels to get there. Also, as best we can tell he is traveling alone.

Isaac sends Jacob to Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob and Esau's mom.

***6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women," 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram.***

**Vs 6-7** Now Moses is going to walk us through what **Esau observed** and what he did.

I would say, as you consider Esau, you will see **his actions prove his heart**. His actions **prove everything the Hebrew has told us about him** thus far.

Esau observed as Isaac, once again, blessed Jacob. As we consider this do not forget the **two main points**:

- 1) God had decreed it to be so.
- 2) Esau sold his birthright; in fact it is much worse than that, for Moses told us clearly:  
*“Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” (Ge 25:34 ESV)*

He observed that Isaac blessed Jacob, Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, and Jacob obeyed his mother and his father!

He observed that **Jacob did** as Isaac and Rebekah had commanded him to do, he went to Paddan-aram to secure a wife from Rebekah’s people.

**8** *So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, 9 Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebaioth.*

**Vs 8** – So, if he did not know it yet, it was clear now that mom and dad did not like him marrying these cursed Canaanite people. We saw Rebekah loathed or was made weary of her own life because of these Hittite women that Esau married.

**At this point**, Esau clearly saw that mom and dad were not pleased with their sons marrying these Canaanite women.

**Vs 9** - And with this revelation, Esau went to Ishmael and took another wife besides the two he already had.

He added to his Harem a woman named Mahalath (her name means stringed instrument). He added to his harem a sister of Nebaioth, who was one of the twelve sons of Ishmael. I would argue Esau’s behavior is exposing his heart.

**APPLICATION:** We will learn in the Mosaic code that children are to honor their parents. This same truth will flow from Jesus and the apostles as a principle of the New Covenant!

*“1 ¶ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),” (Eph 6:1-2 ESV)*

It is possible that Isaac thought this better than marrying a Hittite, but this is his third wife.

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**10 ¶** *Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there that 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 to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!*

**Vs 10** - Jacob leaves Beersheba and heads towards Haran. 450 miles or so as a crow flies.

When Eliezer went, he had other servants. Again, it appears Jacob goes alone. We can imagine he has a few donkeys or mules and some water, food, clothing, gold, and silver.

But as best we can tell, he sets out on this long, arduous, and likely dangerous trip alone.

According to a couple of different websites can travel approximately **25 miles a day**. **That means this trip will take at least 18 days!**

**Vs 11** – We read that Jacob arrives at a **certain place**, we can imagine there is likely water there. We can imagine he likely waters his camels and then beds down because the sun is setting.

Now, we will see this in a moment, but this “**certain place**” is a place that is currently called **Luz**, he will rename it Bethel.

Now it likely took 2-3 days to get here, so the first few days pass without incident as Jacob travels light and probably moves as quickly as possible.

Many years earlier, when Abraham entered the Promised Land, he built an altar probably slightly east of where Jacob is now:

*“From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.”  
(Ge 12:8 ESV)*

Here after two to three days of travel, alone in the desert, at night, Jacob takes a stone, and in the Hebrew it says he places this stone **at his head**. Many scholars believe he takes this stone and likely places some type of cloth or blanket over it and uses it as a pillow. That could be. I will only say the Hebrew says he took a stone and **placed it at his head**.

There, in that **certain place**, he falls asleep, after a long day of travel.

**Vs 12** - As he slept, he dreamed. By the way: This is the first patriarchal dream we have recorded in the scriptures. In Genesis 20, we read about Abimelech’s dream.

Here we see Jacob’s dream. In this dream, he beholds a ladder, the Hebrew word is סֹלֶם (**cullam**). Both Dr Arnold Fruchtenbaum and Dr. Henry Morris write that a better word is **stairs**. So not a ladder like you and I think of, but rather he **beheld stairs going from the earth into heaven!**

These stairs were set up on the earth and these stairs reached from the earth to the top of heaven. And angels are going back and forth between heaven and earth. This depicts a clear interest of and involvement in the affair of man by Yahweh.

**Can you imagine this dream?** Jacob can see from earth into heaven.

**APPLICATION:** Both in the Old Testament and the New dreams are one of the ways that we see God speaking to people. I am not telling you to expect a dream, I am saying we should not be shocked if God chooses to speak this way.

**13 And behold, the LORD stood above it 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. 14 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 in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

**Vs 13** - He then sees **Yahweh who is standing above these stairs!** Now we do not know what Yahweh looked like, but we do know that Jacob will ultimately come to realize who this is!

Then he sees and hears, in his dream, as **Yahweh** who is standing above these stairs confirms his identity and begins to reconfirm the covenantal blessings to Jacob!

This is yet another **theophany**, this is the first of a number of these that Jacob will experience across his life.

Let’s look at the **ten things** that Yahweh says to Jacob.

**Revelation #1 - I am the LORD.** Here God calls Himself by His covenant name. He reveals Himself to Jacob first by His covenantal name. **I am Yahweh.**

**Revelation #2 – I am the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac.** Notice first the Hebrew word for father אב ('ab) (awb), can mean much more than immediate father, it can mean founder or ancestor, for Abraham is not Jacob's father, but his grandfather.

But Yahweh conveys, I am the God of your grandfather and your Father. I am the God who you have likely been told about your whole life! I am the God of Isaac.

You cannot help but wonder if what we read last week flashed through Jacob's mind:

*"And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me." (Ge 27:20 AV)*

**Revelation #3 - The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.** You are now the maintainer and sustainer of the **Abrahamic covenant** and **I give to you and your offspring** the land that I promised Abraham and Isaac.

The mention of Jacob having seed (offspring) means he will find a wife and he will have children; Yahweh has so decreed it.

**Again, God has a habit of saying things that have not yet come to pass and we can rest assured they will come to pass in time!** But he is not done...

**Vs 14 – Revelation #4 - Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth.** This is nothing new and has been repeated multiple times in the Abrahamic covenant. Here it extends to and brings Jacob and his descendants into the promise!

**Revelation #5 - You shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south.** You are going to spread out in the land in all four directions, to the west, east, north, and south!

**Revelation #6 - And in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.** There it is again, the **scarlet thread of the promised Messiah!** From you, from your offspring will come one who will bless ALL the families of the earth!

As best we understand Jacob had likely heard a lot **about God**, but now he has heard **from God**. Jacob had heard a lot about **God's promises**, but now he had heard those promises directly **from God**.

**To Abraham:**

*"and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (Ge 22:18 ESV)*

**To Isaac:**

*"I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed," (Ge 26:4 ESV)*

**And now to Jacob!** But God is not quite done with the promises!

**15 Behold, 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." 16 ¶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 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."**

**Vs 15 – Revelation #7 – Behold, I am with you!**

**Revelation #8 – I will keep you wherever you go!**

**Revelation #9** – Even though we both know you are headed to Haran. Your inheritance is here, in this land, and **I will bring you back to this land.**

**Revelation #10** – **I will not leave you until I have done all that I have promised.** To Jacob, the message from Yahweh is that I love you and I will be with you, and I will bring you back to the Promised Land!

**APPLICATION:** For you and me, that is the message. God loves us, He will be with us, He is for us and not against us, He gave his Son for us. His Son is the ladder that is set up between heaven and earth so that you and I can approach God.

AND as He promised Jacob, God says to each of us right now: *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Heb 13:5b ESV)

**Vs 16** - Then Jacob awoke from his sleep. Here is what he declared, at least to himself: *"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."*

I stopped here, in this **certain place**, and it turns out, although I did not know it, I stopped right where God lives! This is the **place** of the **very presence of God! Yahweh is in the place, and I had no idea... UNTIL NOW!**

**Vs 17** - And he was afraid! The Hebrew word means to fear or be fearful. He was afraid and said, at least to himself: *"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*

I have stopped in the very home of God, the place where God seems to stay, and indeed located here is the gate or the entrance to heaven.

Can you imagine what it was like that **morning for Jacob**. Can you imagine this is a night he **NEVER FORGOT!**

**When you experience God like this, you NEVER forget it!**

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*18 So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. 19 He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.*

**Vs 18** - Early the next morning, as Jacob has had time to reflect on all this. He takes the stone that he had placed in front of his head or possibly under his head and he likely placed other stones on top of it.

It seems he is here constructing a stone pillar. He has no animals other than possibly a donkey or a mule that he may be using to travel with, so he has no sacrificial animals.

And here on this pillar he pours out oil, no doubt as an **offering to Yahweh**.

Whenever God reveals truth, it should result in our worship. We have been watching this happen over and over again here in the book of Genesis. It is here, in Luz where we see **Jacob worships Yahweh!**

**Vs 19** - He called the name of the place **Bethel**. As you here that name you see the ending **EL**, you recognize that is God. **Beth** meaning house and **El** meaning God. He called the place **House of God!**

Then we are told that the name of this place, prior to that, had been called Luz, which means almond tree.

This is a proleptic and it will go on being called Luz for a number of years (Gen 35:6, 48:3, Jos 18:3)> but the name that Jacob gave it here takes hold and sticks.

**20 Then Jacob made 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 clothing to wear, 21 so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, 22 and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."**

**Vs 20-21** - Both Dr. Fruchetenbaum and Dr. Morris tell us that the Hebrew "if" here can and should be translated here as "since."

As you see the story unfold, I believe you too will see that clearly from the text, Jacob is not saying if you do all that, then I will do this. Rather he is saying since you have said that that you will do that, I will do this.

**APPLICATION:** The response to the cross is just like that. We say to Jesus **since you have died for my sins**, I respond to you and what you have done, in faith.

Jacob is saying, God since you have committed to these things that you said. I will respond to your divine revelation with my dedication and commitment to you.

So here in Bethel, in the house of God, alone, no mom, no dad, Jacob vows a vow, Jacob makes an oath, and here is what he **vows!**

**SINCE** - Since you will be with me. Since you will keep me in the way that I go. Since you will provide me food and clothing. Since you plan to bring me back to the land and back to my father's house in peace.

**THEN** - Yahweh you will be my Elohim, now, **right now! Yahweh will be my God.** He means now, he has already built a memorial and poured out oil on that pillar.

I do not believe Jacob is making a deal, if you do this, then I will do that. But rather Jacob is responding to diving revelation and saying since you are committed to doing this, I will follow you as **my God.** I will give you my devotion, and as we will see here in a second even more.

**Vs 22** - And this stone. The one set at my head when I slept or the one I slept on. This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, shall be God's house.

And all that you give me Jacob says, I will give you a full tenth! Here he pledges not only his devotion but a portion of his blessings back to Yahweh.

This is the second time giving a tenth has been mentioned. If you remember:

*"18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) 19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything." (Ge 14:18-20 ESV)*

In both of these examples this is prior to the Mosaic code which said to give 1/10, yet that appears to be the model that was exercised by Abraham and here clearly promised by Jacob.

**I believe here we are seeing Jacob commit his life to Yahweh.**

This is where we end, **but what a place to end!**

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