

The Death of Abraham to the Death of Isaac: **Jacob / Israel Wrestling to Supplant**

As you peruse Jacob's life in these chapters, place an "X" next to the passage where Jacob lives up to his name (supplanter = displacer, successor, one who replaces, one who unseats, one who supersedes, one who steps into the shoes of).

Romans 8:18-21

25:1-11	The Death of Abraham
25:12-18	Ishmael's Sons
25:19-34	Jacob and Esau
26:1-35	Isaac and Abimelech
27:1-40	Jacob gets the Blessing
27:41-46	Jacob flees to Laban
28:1-9	Jacob's Dream at Luz / Bethel
29:1-14	Jacob Arrives in Paddan Aram
29:15-30	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel
29:31-30:24	Jacob's Children
30:25-43	Jacob's Flocks Increase
31:1-21	Jacob Flees from Laban
31:22-35	Laban Pursues Jacob
31:36-55	Laban and Jacob make a Covenant
32:1-21	Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau
32:22-32	Jacob Wrestles with God
33:1-20	Jacob Meets Esau
34:1-31	Dinah and the Shechemites
35:1-15	Jacob Returns to Bethel
35:16-29	The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac

Number of Times Mentioned in Genesis:

Abraham – 116X

Isaac – 79X

Jacob – 177X

Joseph – 149X

Why so much on Jacob?

Abraham was the Father of Faith.

Isaac was the Word of Promise become Flesh.

Jacob was the Wrestler.

- † How would you describe Jacob's journey of faith?
- † In these chapters, with what or who did Jacob wrestle?
- † What exactly did Jacob supplant?
- † From Jacob's life, what is a major lesson for disciples of Jesus?
- † Lastly from the life of Jacob, what can we learn about God's redemption plan in Christ?

Notes:

25:1-11 The Death of Abraham

- † Abraham had many children (to whom he gave gifts) yet only Isaac would receive the Promised Land.
- † Ishmael, blessed by God, still came back and together with Isaac, buried Abraham.
- † Isaac lived **in Beer Lahai Roi** (Well of One who sees me and who lives).
- † 25:12-18 Ishmael's Sons
- † Ishmael's descendants are listed and they lived **in hostility toward all their brothers.**
- † **Discussion: Contrast the two locations** (the two bolded and underlined phrases).

25:19-34 Jacob and Esau

- † Isaac interceded for his wife and the Lord answered by opening her womb. Another typological example of Christ, the intercessor for His Bride, the Church.
- † The Lord's answer yielded a "War of Two Worlds."
 - Why is so much attention around the Middle East? Within the Promised Land is the substance which lights up the world! Everyone covets the flame producing substance.
 - DISCUSSION: Are we not living in a war of two worlds?
- † The beginning of sibling rivalry – parental favoritism.
- † Esau – the earthy shall come first; Jacob – the heavenly comes second.
- † A bowl of stew compared to a birthright – LACK OF THE BIG PICTURE, A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!
 - How famished are you? What shall separate us from the love of God?
 - Edom means "red". Revelation tells us that red is the color of war. Esau's descendants are at war against the Lord. Deciding to be satisfied with the present, seeking material pleasures is being hostile to God.
 - When we're down and out, reached our limit and our guard is down, and the devil is knocking at our door, what will keep us from falling? It must be a view of the hope of the Promise. Focusing on the here and now will only cause us to continually reject the birthright. We must get on our face and knees, crying out to God for mercy.
 - The big picture comes through the mercy of God!

26:1-35 Isaac and Abimelech

- † Isaac repeated his father's deception concerning his wife. He did not give the Philistines enough credit. What about Isaac's perception caused him to have this fear?
- † Isaac became very wealthy to the point of Philistines being envious.
- † Contentions arose over wells. Isaac kept moving and digging new wells until quarrels ceased.
- † At Rehoboth, God had led Isaac to this place of freedom and growth. From there, Isaac went up to Beersheba and the Lord revealed Himself to him.

† After God's revelation, Abimelech went to Isaac and made a treaty of peace. They had a feast and became members of a peace treaty. That day, Isaac and his servants discovered God's blessing of Beersheba, the well of 7 / the Oath.

† Contrast Isaac's account with Esau's, which became grief to his parents.

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