

## 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?

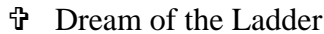
## Notes:

### 27:1-40 **Jacob gets the Blessing**

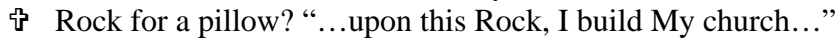


### 27:41-46 **Jacob flees to Laban**

### 28:1-9 **Jacob's Dream at Luz / Bethel**

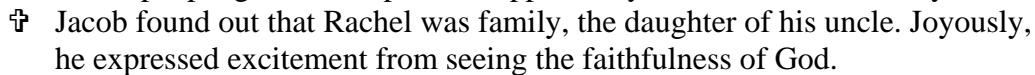
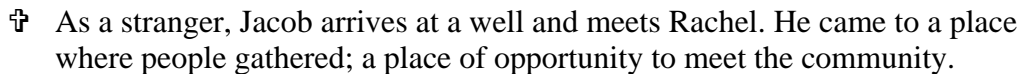


- Vision of Jesus Christ, the Way to Heaven.

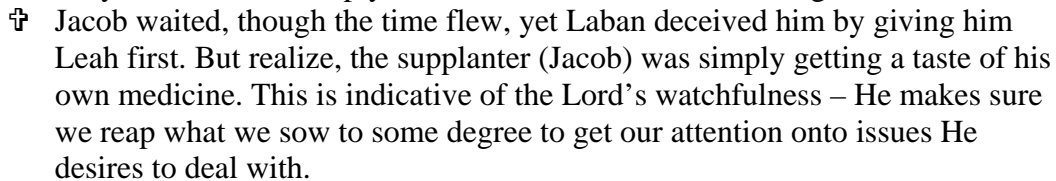


- Surely the Lord is in this place.
- Surely, this is the Gate of Heaven.
- Christianity is not about riding someone's skirt tails. It is a direct, personal relationship with the God of the universe.
- The Vow – "if...then the Lord will be my God"
- Understanding the grace of God must be the basis of vows.
- Vows can be symbolized by the stacking of rocks to build an altar – something that lasts.

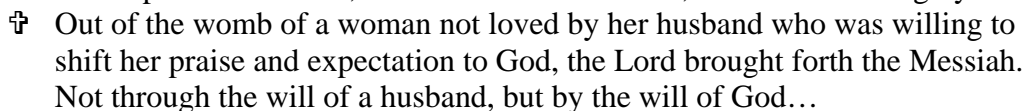
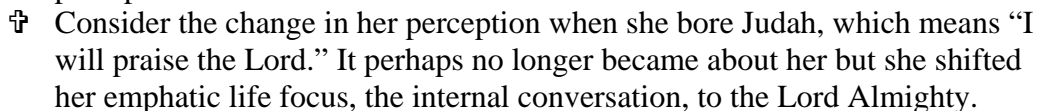
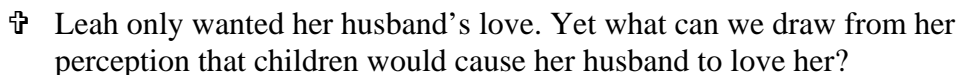
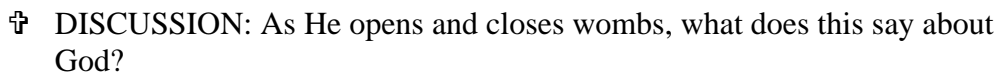
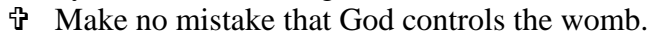
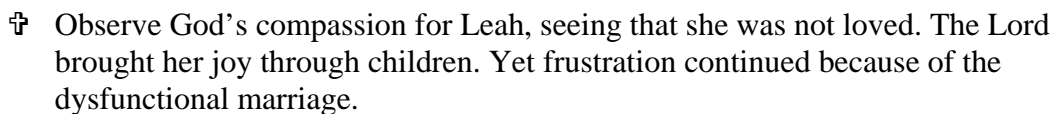
### 29:1-14 **Jacob Arrives in Paddan Aram**



### 29:15-30 **Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel**



### 29:31-30:24 **Jacob's Children**



In a world of chaos and pettiness, God's plan still moves forward. The women focused on jealousy and envy. Man's way of love and validation revolved around contention with each other. Dysfunction occurs when lives are not Christ-centered; all things are skewed when the love of God is not central to all our thoughts, desires, and determinations. When our internal conversations do not focus on praise to the Lord, we end up with much sorrow and bitterness. But God's salvation leads us away from that pattern of existence, and on towards the way of Reconciliation. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

30:25-43      **Jacob's Flocks Increase**

- † The whole deal with branches in the watering troughs was Jacob's way of creating wealth according to his agreement with Laban to have the dark and / or speckled sheep.
- † Jacob ended up with the strong and virulent while Laban's flocks ended up being weak and sickly. God was with Jacob in this struggle and Jacob overcame in this struggle with Laban.

31:1-21      **Jacob Flees from Laban**

- † Laban was a tyrant. He believed he owned Jacob and everything which Jacob had received, wives, children, livestock, etc.
- † But God was working with both Laban and Jacob to eventually bring them into covenant which prevented further harm and distrust.

31:22-35      **Laban Pursues Jacob**

31:36-55      **Laban and Jacob make a Covenant \*\***

- † God's grace was manifested by this contractual agreement of mutual respect and protection; an intentional, thoughtful covenant where clear boundaries were communicated and committed to by both parties.
- † God is the God of reason and not superstition.

32:1-21      **Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau**

32:22-32      **Jacob Wrestles with God**

- † Who supplanted who?
- † This wrestling match summarized Jacob's life experience; this is also the experience of everyone who desires to live by the Spirit of God rather than by his/her own sinful nature.

33:1-20      **Jacob Meets Esau \*\*\***

The act of humbling yourself gets you onto the pathway of peace. God works in the lives of those we are in contention with. Jacob, in preparation to meet Esau, sent all he owned ahead of himself to his brother. In essence, he was putting all he owned, his very life, into the hands of his perceived enemy. This was his act of faith to make peace with his brother. God had been gracious to Esau and blessed him so that hostility had subsided. As a result of the grace of God in the lives of both men, peace resulted.

34:1-31      **Dinah and the Shechemites**

- † **DISCUSSION:** Contrast righteous anger with human anger – describe the heart of each.

† **MAJOR ISSUE:** why didn't Jacob as the father deal with this traumatic event? Negligence of parents (especially the father) to rectify wrongs done to their children is \_\_\_\_\_.

† 34:30 "Should we let our sister be treated like a prostitute?"

35:1-15      **Jacob Returns to Bethel**

† God commanded Jacob to build an altar and get rid of idols.

† To atone for the sin of his family (previous chapter), Jacob needed to build an altar (type of Christ) to offer a sacrifice and get rid of idols. Dysfunction between father and son relationships finds its root in idolatry.

† Vss.10-15 God reaffirmed Jacob's new name, Israel. In revealing Israel's future, God was affirming Jacob's birthright and His fulfillment of His promises through him. God's sovereign grace is able to supersede all stumbling blocks in the lives of His people. His redemption is actually from worship of false deities to the One and True God.

† **DISCUSSION:** We don't use stone pillars so what is our altar today?

† Even before the Levitical law, Israel offered a drink offering and poured oil on the altar. We see that this practice was not solely a function of law but of grace and faith.

35:16-29      **The Deaths of Rachel (Jacob's wife: first love and second wife) and Isaac (Jacob's father)**

† Reuben lost his birthright by sleeping with Israel's concubine, Bilhah. This was an arrogant and premature act of claiming the birthright. (CF 49:3-4)

† Once again, Israel did not deal with a very critical issue in his household. What might this recurring pattern teach us about a predominant problem in the life of people?

† Sons of Israel were accounted for at the death of their grandfather, Isaac. God was testifying to Isaac His fulfillment of promises to Abraham. In a larger sense, God was proving His faithfulness in light of the unfaithfulness of the patriarchs and their children. How many downfalls of this lineage can you identify? In light of many failures by His chosen ones, God's plan was not thwarted in the least; "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God ...not by a husband's will, but by the will of God."  
John 1:13

What concluding lessons can we draw from Jacob's journey from Bethel to Paddan Aram and back to Bethel?

In particular, what spiritual lessons do we glean from Jacob's relationship with God?