

# MSBC Bible Study 1-23

## Journey of Jacob

### Jacob's Journey

#### I. Scripture

##### Genesis 28

1And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 2Arise, 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. 3And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4And 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.

10And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. 16And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. 19And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

#### II. Jacob moves

-This trip occurs to Jacob after a tumultuous series of events. It involves the contrast between Jacob and Esau, Rebekah and Isaac.

- Jacob now ventures north ... way up north to the land of Paddan Aram (field of Aram) to the city of Haran. This is quite the trip ... about 450 mile. It will send him well above the Euphrates into southern Turkey. This would be equivalent to going from Brunswick, GA to Norfolk, VA today.

-Jacob is entering the unknown and has a hope of safety and family. He's still single. Then God breaks through.



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### III. God breaks in

-The gift of the Holy Spirit is indeed a very special gift. The permanent indwelling is even more special. As seen in the [debate of Ken Ham and Bill Nye](#), it is clearly NOT given to everyone.

-Notice that God had “pursued” the line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. [Why?](#)

-Notice that the line goes back to Adam, Abel and Noah, then on to Joseph, Levi, Ephraim, Judah ... and down to Jesus and HIS Church. [How and why?](#)

-The Lord breaks in on Jacob through a [dream](#) at Bethel. This has been written, sung, and painted about for ages. [What is the meaning?](#)

III (cont) --I believe it is the Lord showing Jacob the power and protection and goodness at his side.

--I believe it is the Lord showing Jacob his place in the line of the chosen. similar

[-Has this happened in your lives?](#)

[--May 1983, trip to Fort Sill, OK](#)

[--August 2000, Charleston, WV](#)

[--Spring 2004, New Market, TN](#)

IV. God will meet Jacob again. This is part of the ongoing and [progressive revelation of God](#). Sometimes it is direct, sometimes indirect.

### V. Jacob's Life in Haran

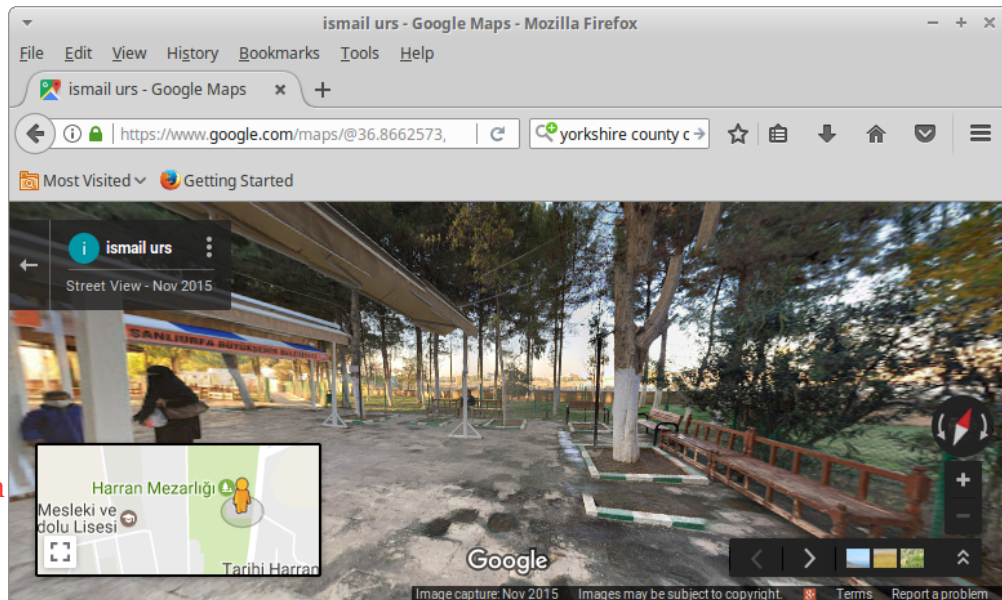
#### Genesis 29

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. 2And 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. 3And 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. 4And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we. 5And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him.



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6And he said unto them, Is he well?  
And they said, He is well: and,  
behold, Rachel his daughter cometh  
with the sheep. 7And he said, Lo, it  
is yet high day, neither is it time that  
the cattle should be gathered  
together: water ye the sheep, and go  
and feed them. 8And they said, We  
cannot, until all the flocks be  
gathered together, and till they roll  
the stone from the well's mouth; then  
we water the sheep. 9And while he  
yet spake with them, Rachel came  
with her father's sheep; for she kept  
them. 10And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and  
the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's  
mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.



VI. Notice that Jacob, in the vigor of youth, **first** inquires about Laban. He has confirmed his destination. Perhaps **he was told by his mother about the location of the family in Haran**. Jacob has now, by God's Providence, reached his destination (**similar to your own distant trips**). He is then surprised by the appearance (**v17**) of Rachel.

When a man loves a woman! Oh the things a man will do to satisfy the one he loves. ... he has found his soul mate! And as a foreshadowing, loves her as Christ loves the Church.

**Remember when you met your wife?**

Jacob, with Herculean strength, provides water for Rachel's sheep. Rachel literally means "little lamb". And again, similar to the woman at the well, this foreshadows Jesus giving **living water** to His sheep!

VII. Go tell it on the mountain

11And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. 12And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father.



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VII (cont) See Rachel's delight and the excitement of sharing good news! This is similar to the reaction of the woman at the well of Sychar, and others who heard the good news of Christ. Rachel was also overcome with joy ... and wonderment.

We're not sure why Rachel is still single, but my guess is that perhaps she has been kept from the locals as Isaac and Jacob were (see v 19). The key is that she was preserved by God for the right time and place and man. **God doesn't waste anything.**

13And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things.

14And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month.

#### Exercise A (sections 1-7)

1. Abraham was what relation to Isaac?
  - a) Father
  - b) Uncle
  - c) Good friend
  - d) Grandfather
  - e) Grandson
2. Before Jacob departed Beersheba, Isaac ...
  - a) cursed him to his face
  - b) told Esau how to find him
  - c) begged him to stay
  - d) blessed him and gave him instructions
  - e) told him to travel east of the Jordan
3. Jacob's trip to Haran would've been like going from Brunswick, GA to ...
  - a) Norfolk, VA
  - b) Baltimore, MD
  - c) Jefferson City, TN
  - d) Bangor, ME
  - e) Charleston, SC
4. Jacob's dream of a ladder occurred at ...
  - a) Beersheba
  - b) Jerusalem
  - c) Bethel
  - d) the Sea of Galilee
  - e) the Wilderness of Paran

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5. What did Jacob see ascending and descending the ladder.
  - a) painters
  - b) demons
  - c) God Himself
  - d) angels
  - e) the dead
6. Haran is located in modern day ...
  - a) Turkey
  - b) Syria
  - c) Iraq
  - d) Serbia
  - e) Bet Semes
7. Jacob was so energized by the appearance of Rachel that he ...
  - a) sang a song
  - b) dug a well
  - c) protected her from the other male shepherds
  - d) removed a large stone from the mouth of a well
  - e) told her about his dream of a ladder

### VIII. Part of the fam

As is the case with Isaac, Jacob is met with serious hospitality. No doubt, Laban welcomes him into the family workforce. We aren't sure how Jacob merged in, but Laban saw it as a blessing ... and would have been happy to keep Jacob for good. Laban is also aware that he has a hook (for Jacob) in Rachel. Jacob on the other hand is tired of trickin' ... and travelling ... as we shall soon see. Laban and Jacob will prove to be a match for each other, just as we have some of our more serious arguments within our own families.

### Genesis 29

15And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be?

16And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.



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18And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

19And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

20And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. 21And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. 22And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. 23And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. 24And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid. 25And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

Oh, that tricky Laban! He's not giving up that hook so quickly. The shenanigans betwixt the two of these is just getting started. Seven years is not quite enough, and God is showing us the human condition in that *neither can plan for eternity ... only the near future*.

26And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

27Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. 28And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

29And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. 30And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

#### IX Births of a nation

#### Genesis 29

31AND WHEN THE Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. 32AND LEAH CONCEIVED, AND BARE A SON, AND SHE CALLED HIS NAME REUBEN: FOR SHE SAID, SURELY THE Lord hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. 33AND SHE CONCEIVED AGAIN, AND BARE A SON; AND SAID, BECAUSE THE Lord hath heard I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.

34And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. 35And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.



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IX (cont) Leah became a tribe (and nation) bearing machine! Tonight, we want to look at the series of tribes descending from Leah ... the “hated” one. The first of these is **Reuben**. The name literally means “Behold, a son!”

**Reuben’s** story is quite melancholic. As the oldest, we will see that he is laden with responsibility. He schemed to keep Joseph alive when his brothers wanted to kill him. But he is also accused of sleeping with Bilhah, Rachel’s handmaid by Jacob. Reuben’s territory would be on the east side of the Dead Sea. He had only these descendants of note: **Bohan**, whose stone was mentioned as a boundary for the tribe of Judah in Judges; tribal prince **Eliezur son of Shedeur**; unfaithful spy **Shammua son of Zaccur**, and rebels against Moses, **Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On**.

The second son of Leah is **Simeon**. Not much is heard of Simeon later except that along with Levi, he revenged the seduction of Dinah. His tribal territory was located within the tribe of Judah in the south. His tribal leader in the wilderness was **Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai**; and unfaithful spy **Shaphat son of Hori**. It is believed that the Simeonites eventually were absorbed into the tribe of Judah. This is somewhat natural.

The third son of Leah is **Levi**, possibly meaning “he will join”. Levi, of course is the ancestor of **Miriam, Moses, Aaron, Samuel, Ezra** and **Zechariah the father of John the Baptist** and many others affiliated with the OT priesthood. The Levites received only cities of refuge in the tribal allotments and no extensive land (except for that permanently vowed to God) because God was considered to be their inheritance. It is important to note that the Levites stood with Moses and carried out the slaughter at the first rebellion in the wilderness.

The lot of Levi’s family is explained in detail in Leviticus. It is important to note that Levi’s 3 sons were **Gershon, Kohat, and Merari**. Among the sons of Kohat was **Amram** who begat Moses and Aaron. The line of Aaron would serve as the priests, while all the rest would serve as temple/tabernacle workers. Additionally, the priests were instructed to marry strictly within the tribe of Levi.



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IX (cont) The fourth son of Leah is **Judah**. Judah is, of course, the ancestor of **Jesus**. His tribe becomes a nation in itself in the southern part of Israel. Although Jerusalem is its capital, Jerusalem was originally allotted to the tribe of Benjamin. In addition to David, other important descendants of Judah are **Caleb, Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah, Nehemiah, Joseph and Mary**. We will soon see that Judah, himself, is somewhat nefarious. His dealings with his own daughter-in-law bear this out.

There were other sons born by the handmaidens Bilhah and Zilpah: **Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher**. Not surprisingly, nothing much comes of their lineage (save for **Dan (Samson)**). But Leah continues to bear offspring. These ladies may have also been daughters of Laban via concubine(s).

#### Genesis 30

14And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. 15And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. 16And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. 17And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. 18And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar. 19And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son. 20And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun. 21And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah.

The desire and use of the mandrakes are not clear. Perhaps Rachel wanted them for getting high, but more likely wanted them to cure infertility. The thought is that she had given up on God and turned to this superstition in order to “catch up” to Leah. Instead, Leah ended up with two more sons and a daughter while Rachel remained sterile. We will see that this is a **recurring theme (lack of faith in God)** in the story.

This time Leah bore two sons and a daughter. The fifth son is **Issachar**, whose descendants included tribal leader **Nethaneel the son of Zuar**, and the unfaithful spy **Igal the son of Joseph**.

The last son is **Zebulun**, whose descendants included tribal leader **Eliab the son of Helon**, and the unfaithful spy **Gaddiel the son of Sodi**.

The tribes of Issachar and Zebulun occupied territory south and west of the sea of Galilee.

More on Dinah later. We now come to Rachel's children.





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IX (cont)

Genesis 30

22And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: 24And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

We don't usually think of Joseph as a tribe, the reason being he was actually two tribes ... [Ephraim](#) and [Manasseh](#)! You can read more about Joseph, the undercover brother, in TTWMK 7. And from these come many Biblical notables: tribal leaders [Elishama the son of Ammihud](#) and [Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur](#); faithful spy and military leader [Joshua son of Nun](#), and unfaithful spy [Gaddi the son of Susi](#). Additionally Manasseh's tribe was so large in population, that they received land on both sides of the Jordan river in the middle of the promised land. Ephraim was also large and received land on the west side of the Jordan and in the middle of the tribes. [These two tribes later formed the basis of the northern kingdom.](#)

Genesis 35

15And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel. 16And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 17And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. 18And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. 19And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. 20And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.

[Benjamin](#) is the only descendant to [actually have been conceived and born in the promised land](#). The name means "son of my right hand". His descendants are also famous: tribal leader [Abidan the son of Gideoni](#); unfaithful spy [Palti the son of Raphu](#); some serious left handed archers; first king of Israel [Saul](#); his beautiful, barren and contentious daughter [Michal](#); and his heroic and faithful son [Jonathan](#); cripple [Mepiboset](#); and finally the plurality writer in the New Testament [Paul](#). Interestingly, Benjamin's portion in the promised land was small, but included Jerusalem and sat just "atop" the land of Judah. Like Simeon, the Benjamites were essentially merged into the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

X. Getaway

Following the birth of Joseph, the Jacob ponders moving south to the promised land, although the decision was actually made for him by God's circumstances. From the HCSB ...

Genesis 30

25After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me on my way so that I can return to my homeland. 26Give me my wives and my children that I have worked for, and let me go. You know how hard I have worked for you."

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27But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your sight, stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.” 28Then Laban said, “Name your wages, and I will pay them.”

29So Jacob said to him, “You know what I have done for you and your herds. 30For you had very little before I came, but now your wealth has increased. The LORD has blessed you because of me. And now, when will I also do something for my own family?” 31Laban asked, “What should I give you?” And Jacob said, “You don’t need to give me anything. If you do this one thing for me, I will continue to shepherd and keep your flock. 32Let me go through all your sheep today and remove every sheep that is speckled or spotted, every dark-colored sheep among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the female goats. Such will be my wages. 33In the future when you come to check on my wages, my honesty will testify for me. If I have any female goats that are not speckled or spotted, or any lambs that are not black, they will be considered stolen.” 34“Good,” said Laban. “Let it be as you have said.”

35That day Laban removed the streaked and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats—every one that had any white on it—and every dark-colored one among the lambs, and he placed his sons in charge of them. 36He put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob. Jacob, meanwhile, was shepherding the rest of Laban’s flock. 37Jacob then took branches of fresh poplar, almond, and plane wood, and peeled the bark, exposing white stripes on the branches. 38He set the peeled branches in the troughs in front of the sheep—in the water channels where the sheep came to drink. And the sheep bred when they came to drink. 39The flocks bred in front of the branches and bore streaked, speckled, and spotted young. 40Jacob separated the lambs and made the flocks face the streaked and the completely dark sheep in Laban’s flocks. Then he set his own stock apart and didn’t put them with Laban’s sheep.

41Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob placed the branches in the troughs, in full view of the flocks, and they would breed in front of the branches. 42As for the weaklings of the flocks, he did not put out the branches. So it turned out that the weak sheep belonged to Laban and the stronger ones to Jacob. 43And the man became very rich. He had many flocks, male and female slaves, and camels and donkeys.

I have pondered this passage hard, and have rarely heard it discussed. [Are we to gain animal husbandry insights into Jacob’s methodology? Or is it just that non-white characteristics dominate individual coloring?](#)

Actually neither of these is true. According to an article on Bible.org, Jacob opted for the more unlikely types of both sheep and goats. In spite of his efforts to “magically” dictate the mating outcomes, [God actually gave Jacob the lion’s share of the flocks by His own sovereignty.](#)

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#### Genesis 31

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. 2And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. 3And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

It is a wonderful thing to be guided by God directly! In spite of the fact that Jacob may have been pondering the decision, God gave the definitive answer. [This happened to me in August of 2000, and in the summer of 2001 \(as confirmed by Rusty Webster in 2003\) and in the summer of 2004.](#) How good is the word and the Word of God! His direction is perfect.

#### Genesis 31

4And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, 5And 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. 6And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. 7And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me. 8If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked. 9Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me.

10And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grised. 11And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. 12And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grised: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. 13I 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.

14And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? 15Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. 16For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.

17Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels; 18And 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. 19And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's. 20And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled. 21So he fled with all that he had; and he rose up, and passed over the river, and set his face toward the mount Gilead.

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X(cont) It is here that Jacob and his family make a fast journey back down and across the Euphrates and rests in Gilead, likely on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee in Bashan. It is here that Laban and his relatives catch up with him and there might have been trouble ... except that God miraculously intervenes.

### Genesis 31

25Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount: and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mount of Gilead. 26And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives taken with the sword?

27Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? 28And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing. 29It 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. 30And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?

31And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me. 32With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them. 33And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found them not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. 34Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. 35And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me. And he searched but found not the images. 36And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What is my trespass? what is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me?



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X(cont) Here's where things get heated. Jacob and Laban have it out, likely in front of everyone. And Laban is the one who actually suggests a boundary marker to separate the two families.

### Genesis 31

42Except 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.

43And 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? 44Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee. 45And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar. 46And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap.

49AND MIZPAH; FOR HE SAID, THE LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.

An agreed upon boundary served well. And notice what Laban said during the ceremony.

### Genesis 31

53The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac.



This is the penultimate separation between the Jews and the rest of the Semites. There is yet, one more separation in which this line of Jacob is pulled apart from his family. There will be fights, but Israel is about to become Israel ... in name and people.

Notice too, the differences in worship now between Abraham and Nahor.

### Exercise B (sections 8-9)

1. Select from below the primary daughters of Laban (select all that apply)?

- a) Zilpah
- b) Rachel
- c) Tamar
- d) Hagar
- e) Leah

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2. Where was the Levi's territory?
  - a) in the temple and cities of refuge
  - b) in the northeastern part of Israel
  - c) along the Jordan River
  - d) in the wilderness of Paran
  - e) near the Wadi of Egypt
3. Why was Rachel on fire for the mandrakes (select all that apply)?
  - a) She wanted to make a doll
  - b) She wanted to get high
  - c) She wanted to conceive
  - d) She just wanted to take something from Leah
  - e) She wanted them for Jacob
4. Who was the first son of Jacob?
  - a) Joseph
  - b) Benjamin
  - c) Isaac
  - d) Laban
  - e) Reuben
5. Who was the only son actually conceived in the promised land?
  - a) Joseph
  - b) Benjamin
  - c) Isaac
  - d) Laban
  - e) Reuben
6. Which son of Jacob gave us the Saviour?
  - a) Ephraim
  - b) Manasseh
  - c) Simeon
  - d) Judah
  - e) Benjamin
7. Who were the sons listed below that were not as impressive (select all that apply)?
  - a) Levi
  - b) Gad
  - c) Asher
  - d) Naphtali
  - e) Benjamin

## MSBC Bible Study 1-23

### Journey of Jacob

8. Which two tribes formed the center of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (select all that apply)?
- a) Ephraim
  - b) Benjamin
  - c) Asher
  - d) Manasseh
  - e) Simeon
9. From which tribe did Joshua descend?
- a) Judah
  - b) Benjamin
  - c) Levi
  - d) Manasseh
  - e) Ephraim
10. Where is the final delineation in the line of Israel?
- a) between Sem and all others
  - b) between Abraham and all others
  - c) between Nahor and all others
  - d) between Jacob and all others
  - e) between Benjamin and all others
11. Of those born post flood, with whom does God first establish a relationship?
- a) Nimrod
  - b) Sem
  - c) Canaan
  - d) Ham
  - e) Japet
  - f) Abraham
12. Who is Dan's greatest descendant?
- a) Caleb
  - b) Jonathan
  - c) Samson
  - d) Shechem
  - e) Gideon

#### XI. Israel the Champion

NOW we come to the final split as Jacob enters the Promised Land proper and meets Esau. This meeting is not expected to go well ... even after 20 some years of separation. [There are some wounds that are healed in time](#). Notwithstanding, we begin with the [earnest](#) prayer of Jacob.

## MSBC Bible Study 1-23 Journey of Jacob

Genesis 32 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. 11 Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. 12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Jacob is genuinely frightened at this stage. He is heading up a large contingency with potential danger in front. He is oh so close to crossing over

Jordan, but there's still this issue with Esau. There is some faith in God on the part of Jacob, but there is still doubt. [The needle is about halfway at this point between Jacob's trust in God and Jacob's trust in Jacob.](#) Jacob is still learning to lean.



### Genesis 32

13 And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother; 14 Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, 15 Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals. 16 And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove. 17 And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, Whose art thou? and whither goest thou? and whose are these before thee? 18 Then thou shalt say, They be thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, also he is behind us.

A wrestling match is about to occur between Jacob and an Angel. And here is where the nation gets its name! [Note that the angel is \*not\* Jesus! Jesus wouldn't wrestle a man ... even Jacob ... to a draw!](#)

### Genesis 32

21 So went the present over before him: and himself lodged that night in the company. 22 And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. 23 And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.



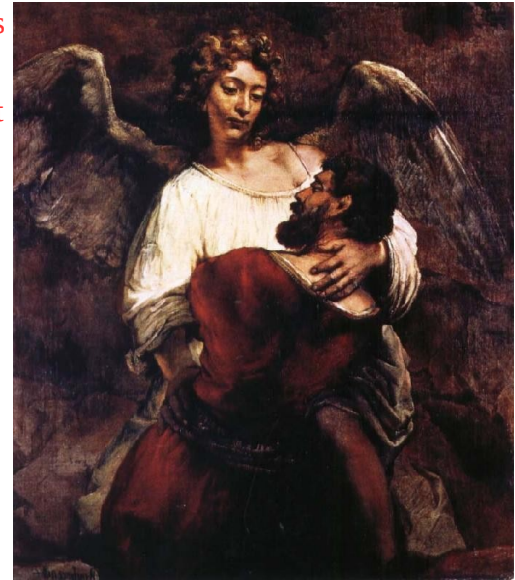
## MSBC Bible Study 1-23 Journey of Jacob

24And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

So Jacob prepared for the worst, but God prepared for the best! We're about to see God's glory displayed.

### Genesis 33

And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids. 2And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.



Whaaat?!? Now the needle is going back to Jacob.

### Genesis 33

3And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. 5And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

6Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves. 7And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves.

8And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord. 9And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself. 10And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me. 11Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

## MSBC Bible Study 1-23

### Journey of Jacob

And now, the final separation of Israel from the rest of the Semites ... and it's a brotherly split. God is choosing a [people for Himself as a witness to His glory](#) to the world.

#### Genesis 33

12And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee. 13And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die. 14Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir. 15And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? let me find grace in the sight of my lord. 16So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir.

#### XII. Home At Last

Now that Israel has settled into the promised land there is no more trouble to be had ... or not.

#### Genesis 33

17And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. 18And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. 19And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. 20And he erected there an altar, and called it [EloheIsrael](#).

He is finally home, albeit a little north of home. [EloheIsrael](#) means "the mighty God of Israel" ... a fitting name for the altar. [Succoth](#) means "booths". Shechem ... well that's a very important place in Israel located in a mountain pass between Mounts Ebal (north) and Gerizim (south) in what is today the West Bank. It is on the central Palestinian ridge almost equidistant from the seas of Galilee and Death.

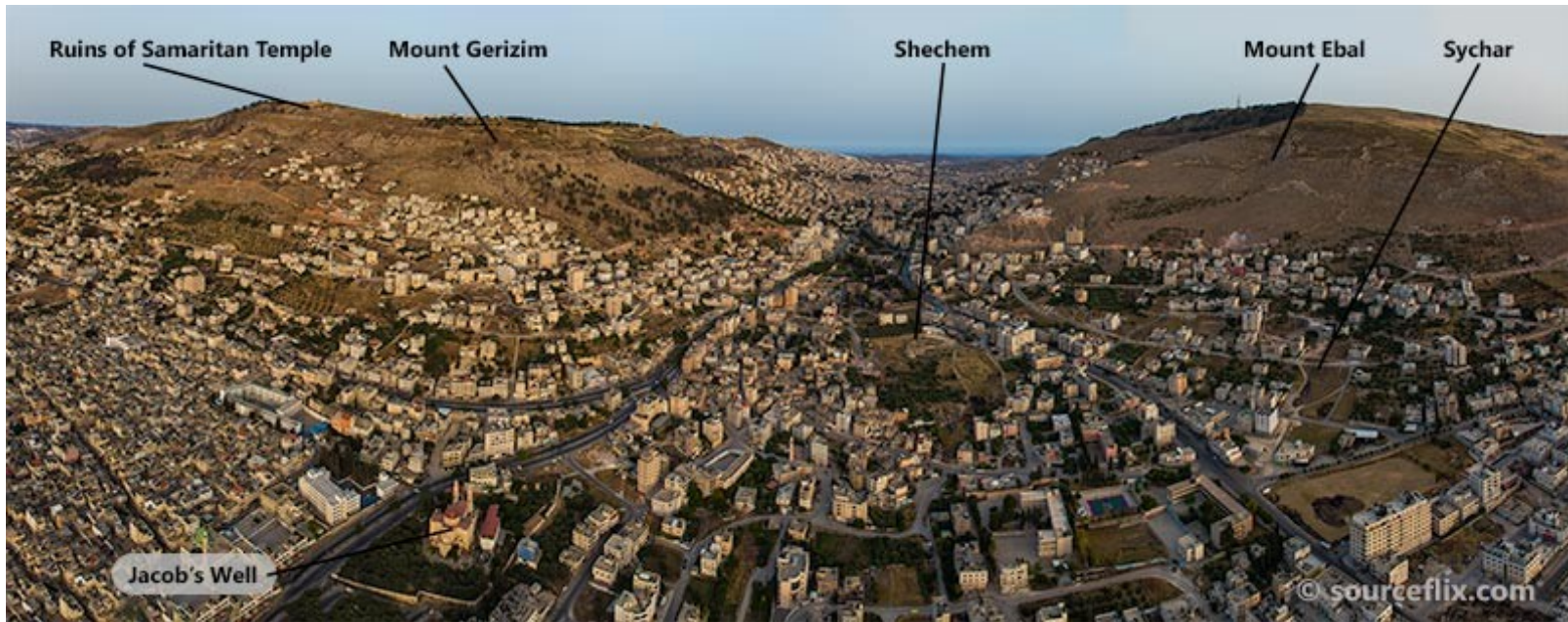
So with his great livestock and large family, Jacob finally settles down for a time in a very nice location, but close to a pagan city. Would all go smoothly from this time? Of course not.

There will be trouble between the sons of Israel over preferential treatment. Isaac will soon die. Rachel will die in childbirth. Reuben will sleep with his father's concubine. Judah will unwittingly sleep with his son's wife Tamar, who will bare to Judah the twins Perez and Zerah. Perez is the ancestor of the Christ. [It is amazing that God uses such broken people to bring about great things.](#) Even as Judah's life was winding down, God used him to foreshadow the coming Messiah.

## MSBC Bible Study 1-23 Journey of Jacob

And before all of that happens, Levi and some of his brothers will stir up a very hot pot of trouble in the city of Shechem regarding their sister Dinah.

But God's deliverance is still at hand, and it will take place through Jacob's son Joseph.



The interested Bible student can continue the story with TTWMK vol 7.

### Exercise C (final)

1. Select from below the granddaughter(s) of Laban?

- a) Bilhah
- b) Zilpah
- c) Rachel
- d) Dinah
- e) Leah

2. Order the following events chronologically.

- a) Jacob wrestles Angel
- b) Jacob parts with Laban
- c) Jacob uncovers lid for Rachel at well
- d) Jacob has dream of ladder to heaven

## MSBC Bible Study 1-23

### Journey of Jacob

3. Shechem lay directly between which two mountains?
  - a) Carmel
  - b) Ebal
  - c) Nebo
  - d) Moriah
  - e) Gerizim
4. Order the following events chronologically.
  - a) Jacob wrestles Angel
  - b) Jacob parts with Laban
  - c) Jacob helps Rachel at well
  - d) Jacob has dream of ladder to heaven
5. Jacob's injury while wrestling the angel was to his ...
  - a) wrist
  - b) neck
  - c) knee
  - d) elbow
  - e) hip
6. Gideon was of the tribe of ...
  - a) Ephraim
  - b) Manasseh
  - c) Simeon
  - d) Judah
  - e) Benjamin
7. Haran was located in what is now ...
  - a) Turkey
  - b) Israel
  - c) Egypt
  - d) Sierra Leone
  - e) West Bank
8. Which two tribes formed the center of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (select all that apply)?
  - a) Ephraim
  - b) Benjamin
  - c) Asher
  - d) Manasseh

## MSBC Bible Study 1-23 Journey of Jacob

9. From which tribe did Joshua descend?
- a) Judah
  - b) Benjamin
  - c) Levi
  - d) Manasseh
  - e) Ephraim
10. Put the following men in ancestral order.
- a) Sem
  - b) Joseph
  - c) Isaac
  - d) Jacob
  - e) Abraham
11. The brook Jabbok flows into the Jordan from the ...
- a) East
  - b) West
  - c) North
  - d) South
12. Who plays Jacob in C-N's current production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat?
- a) Jacob Lindsey
  - b) Kenneth Massey
  - c) Dr. Thomas Bass
  - d) Ed Howard
  - e) Ken Havelly
13. As people in the Old Testament get to know God better, we call this ...
- a) Personal Stupidity
  - b) Sanctification
  - c) Justification
  - d) Progressive Revelation
  - e) Bifurcation
  - f) Progresso Assimilation
14. In what book of the Bible can Jacob's complete life story be found?
- a) the book of Jacob
  - b) the book of Eli
  - c) the book of Genesis
  - d) the book of Lamentations
  - e) the book of Hebrews

## MSBC Bible Study 1-23

### Journey of Jacob

15. Jacob's trip back from Haran to Shechem would've have been like going from Norfolk, VA to ...
- a) Miami, FL
  - b) Charleston, SC
  - c) Jefferson City, TN
  - d) Blacksburg, VA
  - e) Brunswick, GA