

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. It seems that Jacob derived little courage from his meeting with the angels. Why is it that we often forget God's greatness and goodness?
2. Jacob feared Esau. How can "the fear of man bring a snare"? Proverbs 29:25
3. Why should we have to persist in prayer?
4. Jacob was blessed by the angel. How can we know if something is truly a blessing to us?

SUMMARY:

Jacob learned many hard lessons during the time he spent tending the flocks of his father-in-law. At the start he must have been somewhat lonely in the knowledge that he could not return to the land of his father and mother for fear of his very life. But he also learned during this time that God can overrule the plans of men if He so chooses.

All of these lessons served to give Jacob a faith in God that made him obey the Lord when he was instructed to return to the land of his own people. His precautions indicated that he thought of his brother's reception to his return but he made the trip never-the-less and this is to his credit.

The Lord had again prepared the way for him and he could certainly take comfort in the knowledge that the Lord continued with Him. We can learn from the actions of Jacob. They should serve to draw us closer to the Lord and make us more anxious to take our troubles to Him and obey His will.

NOTES:

[SoF:8] We believe that a saving faith results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, without which there is no salvation.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

May 11, 2014

Second Quarter

JACOB'S NEW NAME

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 32:1-12, 24-32*

LESSON SETTING: God commands Jacob to leave and return to his father in the land of Canaan.

TIME: Approximately 1739 B.C.

- I. JACOB'S DISTRESS.** Genesis 32:1-12
 - A. Jacob's Fear (vs. 7) Deuteronomy 1:17; Proverbs 29:25;
 - B. Jacob's Refuge (vs. 9-12) Psalm 34:6; 61:2
- II. JACOB'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE ANGEL.** Genesis 32:24-26
 - A. Secret, Persistent Prayer (vs. 24) Deuteronomy 9:25; 1 Samuel 15:11; Matthew 6:6
 - B. Importunity in Prayer (vs. 26) Deuteronomy 9:18; Luke 22:44; Acts 12:5
- III. JACOB'S NEW NAME.** Genesis 32:27-32
 - A. Changing of Names (vs. 28) Genesis 17:5; 41:45; Acts 13:9
- IV. OUR NEW NATURE.** **[SoF:8]**
 - A. A Renewed Heart. Jeremiah 24:7; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26; Luke 8:15
 - B. A Clean Heart. Isaiah 1:18; Ephesians 5:25-26; Hebrews 9:14
 - C. A New Man. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 3:10
 - D. A New Name. Isaiah 56:5; 62:2; Revelation 3:12

GOLDEN TEXT: *I WILL NOT LET THEE GO, EXCEPT THOU BLESS ME.* Genesis 32:26

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 35:1-15
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: John 21:3-25

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: JACOB RETURNS TO BETHEL

INTRODUCTION:

Bethel was a place which meant much to Jacob. It was here that Jacob had the dream of the ladder coming down from heaven. It was here that Jacob made the pillar and anointed it and made a promise to follow God and to give Him a tenth of all he had. When God spoke to Jacob to tell him to return to the land of his own people, He said, *"I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointest the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow to me."* God realized that Jacob could not help but associate this place with his experience with God.

Now again Jacob comes into a time of trouble and God directed him to this special place. Before leading his household to Bethel, Jacob realized that there was something that he would have to do. He realized that to come before God, his family would have to purge themselves of those things that were not pleasing to God. He told them to put away the strange gods and to cleanse themselves. We should always remain "clean" before God, but we should often pause to examine our lives and allow God to cleanse us and really seek to return to that place where we are close to Him, to that place where we had our experience with God. In the New Testament Covenant, this is not a physical place, but in the temple which is our body. We should certainly not overlook the necessity to get our minds and hearts ready for this meeting.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Dedication to God brings His presence and blessing.

GOLDEN TEXT: *IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.*
1 John 1:9

The acknowledgment of sin is very important in God's plan for the reconciling of man to Himself. In the Old Testament times there was a sin offering made for the people. This was done openly and **after** sins had been acknowledged. Since the time of Christ, after He became that perfect sacrifice, the need for repeated sin offerings no longer exists. The need to acknowledge sin in our lives does exist, however. In our text, John is talking to believers who have been cleansed from the sin of the world through the redemptive blood of Christ. Now there is a continuing need for believers to continually search their own lives, with the help of the Holy Spirit and to acknowledge the things that displease God in the proper attitude of repentance.

James says that we should confess our faults to each other, that through this means and the resultant prayer which most certainly accompanies it, we shall be healed. (James 5:16)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 12 – 18

M. *Jacob Returns to Bethel. Genesis 35:1-15
T. Rachel Dies. Genesis 35:16-20
W. Isaac Dies. Genesis 35:27-29
T. The Disciples Return to the Lord. John 21:1-11
F. Peter Returns to Jesus. John 21:12-19
S. The Disciples Follow Their Lord. Ephesians 5:1-10
S. Jesus Rewards His Believers. Revelation 22:1-9

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