

Old Testament Survey  
Lesson #6  
October 16, 2008

I. Four Significant Men of Genesis

Abraham – Man of Faith  
Isaac – Son of Promise  
Jacob – Man of Change  
Joseph – Man of Suffering, Grace and Glory

*The first three all had barren wives: Only Isaac prayed for the Lord to give wife a child Genesis 25:21 (Gen.30:1-5 Rachel gets angry at Jacob!! And proceeds to fix problem)  
God is Sovereign and calls those things into being which be not:*

- Abraham staggered not at the promise of God.(Romans 4:18-24)
- Abraham *did believe* promise, did believe God could and would perform.
- His “weakness” as is ours, was the tendency to “*help*” God perform it, to *reason out “how”* to perform it rather than “*waiting*” on the Lord.

A. Abraham: Genesis 17:1-10

**1.El Shadday** (Almighty, Powerful, Strong, One who is self sufficient)

God begins with Who He Is...we must begin with Who He Is not what we lack or who we are.

**Verse 1.** Walk before me, be thou **perfect** (*entire, truth, without blemish, full complete, without spot.*)

**2. Does God expect the same in us?**

*Matthew 5:48* Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is *perfect*.

*Philippians 3:12* Not as though I had already attained, either were already *perfect*; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ

*1 Peter 5:10* But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, *make you perfect*, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

2 *Timothy 3:16-17* All scripture is given of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.{complete, sufficient, qualified}

2 *Corinthians 13:11* Be perfect, Be of good comfort, Be of one mind, {perfect = to complete thoroughly, repair, adjust, mend} Revelation 19:7

**This can only come through a love relationship with the Lord.**

*Deut. 6:4* Love the Lord thy God with ALL thy Heart, soul, and mind

**3.Name is changed:** In the Old Testament this usually signified a change in one’s relationship with God – Abram to Abraham Genesis 17:5 Abram=high father Abraham=Father of multitude.

Genesis 22:12, 16-18 Willingness to give all – His only Son

*Hebrews 11:17-19*

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, [18] Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: [19] Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

**B. Isaac Genesis 22:7-9**

1. Obedient and willing son to His father (both in sacrifice, and letting father find a wife)
2. Obedient to the Lord *Genesis 26:1-3*
3. Covenant established by the Lord with Isaac *Genesis 26:3-6*

**C. Jacob Genesis 25:22-27** The transforming power of fellowship with God. This truth shines clearly through the experiences of this chosen man.

1. Jacob = “heel catcher” one who supplants, to restrain or circumvent as if tripping, holding heel
2. *Genesis 25:30-34* *The selling of the birthright*  
Esau despised his birthright = “disesteem” “to have little regard” This showed his heart towards the things of the Lord, towards his father...he did not value the spiritual as much as the fleshly, the worldly.

For a further description of Esau, turn to *Hebrews 12:14-17* (the blessing could not be changed, and Esau’s tears were more for sorrow than repentance for his attitude towards God’s things.) *The change Esau wanted was of his father’s determination to give the chief blessing to Jacob. Had he sought real repentance with tears he would have found it (Matthew 7:7). But he did not find it because this was not what he sought. What proves his tears were not those of one seeking true repentance is, immediately after he was foiled in his desire, he resolved to murder Jacob! He shed tears, not for his sin, but for his suffering the penalty of his sin. His were tears of vain regret and remorse, not of repentance.*

*Fornication= idolatry-anything that takes the place of God being first in our lives.*

*Profane = wicked, heathen, crossing the threshold (no boundaries of what was right or proper)*

3. *Genesis 26:34-35*

And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: [35] Which were a **grief** of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah. (trouble, bitterness, grief..)

4. See handout on Birthright

5. The Blessing “cemented” or validated the Birthright or made it legal and binding. Hence, we can see why both sons wanted that blessing. *Genesis 27:33* – Blessings could not be withdrawn. Jacob stole from Esau something he had no right to do. God would have done so His way, His time.
6. Rebecca knew what God’s plan was...as did Jacob ...yet, like Abraham, they must help put it into action...a real warning for us. (*Gen.25:22-23*)

- a. Mother and son resort to trickery, deceit and lying to obtain God's promise and plan  
Is this ever right? Genesis 27: 11-15
- b. Though God had recognized Jacob to be in the line of promise, He did not approve of Rebecca and Jacob's conduct. The reaping, or harvest? Jacob's scheming brought sad and terrible fruit throughout his life.

He had to leave home never to see his beloved mother again.

He was tricked by his uncle Laban repeatedly (chpt.29-30)

He lived in fear of Esau for years (31)

His dishonesty also affected his children : they dealt treacherously with the Shechemites(34); deceived their own father regarding the alleged death of his favorite son, Joseph (37)...sin can bring a bitter harvest in one's life. Galatians 6:7-9 Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of flesh reap corruption, He that soweth to Spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

But God remains a faithful, loving and merciful Father

- 7. What would enable Jacob to work for 14 years for a man that kept deceiving him(Laban)  
Genesis 29:17-20

- 8. Genesis 32 Jacob is changed! He seeks the Lord diligently! And finds Him and is rewarded!

Verse 10: A man who sees himself in the light of God will ever feel that he has no good but what he has received, and that he deserves nothing of all that he has.

Verse 22-32 "*Thy Servant*" Jacob referring himself to Esau as servant showing humility in Jacob as well as leaving the fulfillment of the Blessing up to God to fulfill (older shall serve the younger)

Verse 25 From this time Jacob became a new man; but it was not till after a severe struggle that he got his name, his heart, and his character changed. After this he was no more Jacob the supplanter, but Israel—the man who prevails with God, and sees him face to face. *He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him* Hebrews 11:6

Hosea 12:4

Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel,(Gen.28:13-15) and there he spake with us; Even the Lord God of hosts; The Lord is his memorial. [6] Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

Verse 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

(We must see, agree with the Lord what He shows us in His Light)

Verse 31. halted upon his thigh—As Paul had a thorn in the flesh given to humble him, lest he should be too elevated by the abundant revelations granted him [2 Cor. 12:7], so Jacob's lameness was to keep him mindful of this mysterious scene, and that it was in gracious condescension the victory was yielded to him.

Genesis 33:1-4 Jacob had a personal victory with God...and now, had God changed Esau's heart?

“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies be at peace with him”  
Proverbs 16:7

#### **D. Joseph Genesis 37: 1-5**

Judah:

Verse 26: Judah’s idea to sell Joseph

Look at Genesis 44: 16, 30-34 How has Judah changed? What caused this change?

Genesis 49: 10 The Messianic line carried through Judah

#### **Circumstances did not determine or change Joseph’s fellowship with God.**

1. Genesis 39:1-6 Read

Verse 2 And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

2. **What did they see?**

Verse 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

**John 13:35**

**By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

Though changed in condition, Joseph was not changed in spirit; though stripped of the colorful coat that had adorned his person, he had not lost the moral graces that distinguished his character; though separated from his father on earth, he still lived in communion with his Father in heaven; though in the house of an idolater, he continued a worshipper of the true God.

#### **Psalm 105:17**

*Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread. [17] He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: [18] Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: [19] Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.*

*“laid in iron” His soul came into iron ...he was bound in affliction*

Tried = to fuse metal, refine, purify

#### **Psalm 107:10**

Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;

#### **Acts 7:9-10**

*And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, [10] And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.*

#### **Genesis 41:51-52 Fruitfulness, forgetting those things which lie behind**

And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father’s house. [52] And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God

hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Genesis 45:3-8 **Forgiveness is evident in Joseph's life**

Genesis 50:19-21 **God works all things together for good to those who love Him**

Genesis did begin with Paradise, fellowship with God  
And ends with death of Joseph....and yet hope in the promises of God.