

## Journey Through HIStory: Jacob Sent to Paddan-aram

Text: Genesis 28:1-9

### Introduction:

Rebekah's plan to send Jacob to Haran (in Paddan-aram) to escape from Esau in the guise of looking for a wife was successful. Isaac sent Jacob away and commanded him to look for a wife among his mother's relatives.

### I. Jacob Leaves Canaan. – Gen. 28:1-5

- A. Isaac **charged** Jacob to go look for a wife in Haran, among Laban's daughters, and not marry a Canaanite woman.
  1. *"The Hebrew verb "to stand" or "arise" is often used as an instruction to prepare to fulfill a command, somewhat similar to the military command "attention.""* <sup>[1]</sup> (Footnotes, Amplified Bible, [The Lockman Foundation](#))
  2. This implies that he really did not know Jacob was actually **running** away from Esau and that Rebekah only came up with an excuse to send Jacob away.
- B. Isaac blessed Jacob **intentionally**, and declared the continuation of the promise to Abraham through Jacob.
  1. ***"May God Almighty bless you: Isaac blessed Jacob in the name of God Almighty, that is, El Shaddai. This title for God was previously used in Genesis 17:1, where God described Himself to Abraham with this phrase. Abraham passed the knowledge of El Shaddai on to his son Isaac, who now passed it on to Jacob. He first pronounced a general blessing of prosperity upon Jacob."*** <sup>[2]</sup> (David Guzik, *Jacob Flees from Esau*)
  2. It is interesting to note that he did not declare the "blessing of **Abraham**" and becoming a "great company of people" (a great nation) when he thought he was blessing Esau.
  3. Perhaps he knew all along that God had chosen Jacob, based on the prophecy told to Rebekah, to receive and continue the promise given to Abraham.
  4. The "blessing of Abraham" and the blessing supposedly given to Esau.
    - i. "The blessing of Abraham":
      - a. Be a great nation, be blessed abundantly (prosperity), his name will be great (distinguished), be a blessing to others, bless those who bless him, curse those who curse him, and **bless all the families of the earth through him.** – Gen. 12:2-3
      - b. Have the land of **Canaan** as a possession for him and his descendants, and have numerous descendants. – Gen. 13:14-18
      - c. Be a father of nations, have kings among his descendants, for the Lord to be his God and to his descendants, and have the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession for him and his descendants. – Gen. 17:6-8
      - d. His descendants will **possess** the gate of their enemies (conquering them). – Gen. 22:17
    - ii. The blessing for Esau (taken by Jacob):
      - a. **Prosperity** – the water of heaven, fatness of the earth, and abundance of grain and new wine. – Gen. 27:28
      - b. Be served by people (and his relatives); be recognized by nations; \* those who bless him will be blessed and those who curse him will be cursed. – Gen. 27:29

## II. Esau Marries Again. – Gen. 28:6-9

- A. Esau saw that Isaac blessed Jacob as he charged him not to marry a Canaanite woman and realized that his parents had been **grieved** because of his wives.
- B. In hope to appease his parents, he married again, a daughter of Ishmael (not a Canaanite), Isaac's brother through Abraham, who was also their relative.
  - 1. He probably thought that doing so might somehow **grant** him favor, or a blessing, from his parents. – Gen. 28:6-7
  - 2. *“Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob: Now the blessing and the birthright seemed important to Esau. They were important enough to him that he determined to impress his father by marrying non-Canaanite women when he saw **that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother.**”* [2]

## III. Spiritual Insights and Principles.

- A. Jacob's looking for a wife in Haran was slightly **different** from his father, Isaac, in that Abraham did not want Isaac to go to his homeland and sent his servant Eliezer instead.
  - 1. Abraham wanted the son of promise (Isaac) to remain in the land of promise (Canaan).
  - 2. Isaac did not seem to mind his son, Jacob, to go to his father's homeland.
- B. It may be slight, but it could be possible that Isaac was actually reserving the blessing he declared for Jacob when he left because he was really saving it for him in obedience to God's choice.
  - 1. It's not impossible, but unlikely to forget the most important blessing.
  - 2. That may also be why Isaac told Esau he had no other blessing to give him, despite declaring more (that are greater) to Jacob, because that is intended for the one God had chosen—Jacob.
- C. We can imagine the difference between what **God**, our Heavenly Father, could give His children and what our parents, or we as parents, could give our children. – Matt. 7:9-11; Lk. 11:11-13

### Conclusion/Application:

Things may go out of hand and be completely different from what we intended them to be. Jacob had to suddenly leave their home as a consequence of their family's conflict of interest and their manipulating the situation to have their way. But God's will cannot be thwarted by man's schemes, failures, or sin. He will see His promise **through** for He is faithful to keep His Word.

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- 1. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+28&version=AMP>
  - 2. [https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-28.cfm?a=28001](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-28.cfm?a=28001)