

The only piece of ground ever owned by Abraham in the Promised Land is a field with a cave in it.

Abraham was focused not on an earthly inheritance, but a heavenly one.

The record of this real estate transaction between Abraham and Ephram the Hittite shows the accuracy and historical reliability of the Scriptures.

Archaeologists discovered that the Hittites not only existed, but were as powerful a nation as Egypt at one point.

These 2 chapters are literally laced with local color, accurately reflecting the customs of the day.

The site of Macpelah, Sarah's grave, has never been lost.

Genesis 24 is the story of Isaac getting his wife. Abraham sent his servant, Eliezer of Damascus, to his family in the city of Nahor, to find a wife for Isaac. Eliezer is a great model of what it means to be a steward:

He is a man of piety and faith.

He trusts God completely.

He looks to God for guidance and direction.

He worships God in the middle of the task.

He gives thanks to God at the successful conclusion of the mission.

He is eminently dependable.

Abraham trusts him with everything that he owns.

He is absolutely devoted to his master.

He is obsessed with a sense of urgency about the importance of his mission.

The theme of marrying only within the family of God is woven throughout the entire fabric of Scripture.

Deuteronomy 7:3, 17

I Kings 11:4

Ezra 9

I Corinthians 7:39

Toward the end of his life, Abraham took another wife, a concubine, named Keturah and there were sons by her.

Abraham's obituary notice - "He was an old man and full of years and was gathered to his people."

In Genesis 25, Moses quickly tells us about Ishmael and then goes back to the account of Isaac.

The tension in the Middle East goes all the way back to this time.

After 20 years of marriage, Rebekah is finally pregnant with twins. All through Scripture there is a pattern of God prefacing an exceptional work with a "supernatural" pregnancy for a barren woman.

Why did God choose Jacob over Esau? (Romans 9:10ff)

God set His love on Jacob so He could show His power, mercy and love and to raise up a people for His name.

Neither Jacob nor Esau were promising characters.

God chose Jacob, (“a worm”), so that He could show His love, power and mercy in turning Him into “Israel” - the “Prince of God.”

Why did God choose you and me? (Titus 3:4-7)

Isaac repeats Abraham’s sin - by saying that Rebekah is his sister when he goes to King Abimelech’s land in Gerar. Children learn what is modeled for them.

No one in the family of Isaac and Rebekah acts righteously.

Isaac and Rebekah played favorites with their sons - Isaac loved Esau more, and Rebekah loved Jacob.

Jacob is a scoundrel.
Esau does not care at all about spiritual issues.

Two bottom-line lessons:

Isaac and Esau learned that you cannot thwart the will of God.

Rebekah and Jacob learned that “the end does NOT justify the means.”

Once Isaac had spoken the blessing over Jacob, it was irrevocable, even though he had been deceived.

Jacob's experience at Bethel is the first turning point in his life.

Forms of communication from God in the Old Testament:

A voice

A dream

An angelic appearance

A theophany

Our reliance for communication from God needs to be firmly rooted in our study of the Word of God.

Jesus refers to Jacob's experience at Bethel and was primarily trying to say that between Him and the Father in heaven there would be free and open and constant communication.

God's last word to Jacob at Bethel is applied in the New testament to us: "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go...I will not leave you until I have done what I gave promised you."

Chapter 1-11 - 4 events:

Chapters 12-50 - 4 people:

Additional characters from today's reading:

Rachel and Leah, Jacob's wives

Zilpah and Bilhah, their maidservants

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Dinah and Joseph -
Jacob's children

God's revealed pattern for marriage is monogamy.

Jacob the deceiver met his match in his Uncle Laban:

In the case of his marriage

In the flocks and wages

Laban wants Jacob to stay with him because he understands that he is being blessed because God is with Jacob.

We are more like Jacob than we would care to admit - we want all the blessings God has promised and we want them now, and we try to figure out how to help God give them to us.

People are tools in our lives - hammers and chisels - God uses to take us from a rough diamond to a polished gem.

Even though Jacob did not learn to trust God as a child, God does give up on him.

Over and over again in Scripture, God is referred to as “the God of Jacob.”

Write down what you are thinking and feeling about your participation in Know the Word and talk with God about it. If it has been valuable to you, share it with another person and encourage them to begin this study.

The sons of Jacob mentioned yesterday, along with Benjamin, become the 12 Tribes of Israel.

At the conclusion of his time with Laban, Jacob has learned SOME of what God has been trying to teach him. He is beginning to recognize God's providence in his life - that is, he sees God's hand directing, protecting and caring for him.

When God tells him to return to the Promised Land, he is ready to obey.

Rachel stole her father's household gods, called 'teraphim', before she left.

God protects Jacob again by warning Laban not to harm him.

Psalm 20 ends with these words, “May the God of Jacob protect you.”

Esau is riding out to meet Jacob with 400 men, and Jacob is afraid, and unable to trust God completely even yet.

Jacob wrestles with the angel at the Brook Jabbok. This is when he is changed from Jacob the deceiver, to Israel, the Prince of God.

This encounter leaves him with a permanent limp that will always remind him of the night he met God at Peniel.

Who do you trust? Horses - chariots - or the Lord? “May the God of Jacob protect you.”