Life of Jacob Outline

From The Outline Bible

Heart of Wisdom Bible Study Week 8. View Lessons and Lapbooks here.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH (25:19–26:16)

A. Isaac’s devotion to Rebekah (25:20–34)
   1. The request (25:19–22): He prays that Rebekah will conceive a child.
   2. The results (25:23–34): God answers Isaac’s prayer in double measure!
      b. The birthright and the twins (25:27–34): Upon reaching manhood, Esau sells his
         birthright for a bowl of stew.

B. Isaac’s deception concerning Rebekah (26:1–16)
   1. God’s direction (26:1–5): During a famine, God forbids Isaac from going to Egypt,
      but allows him to enter Philistia.
   2. Isaac’s deceit (26:6–7): As his father had previously done, Isaac lies to Abimelech
      (the Philistine king) about his wife, claiming she is his sister.
   3. Abimelech’s detection (26:8–16): Upon seeing Isaac caressing Rebekah, Abimelech
      rebukes Isaac for deceiving him. In spite of this, God continues to bless Isaac.

II. ISAAC AND THE PEOPLE OF GERAR (26:17–22): An argument erupts concerning the
    ownership of some wells.

III. ISAAC AND GOD (26:23–25): In a dream, the Lord appears to Isaac and confirms the covenant
    he made with Isaac’s father, Abraham.

IV. ISAAC AND THREE PHILISTINE LEADERS (26:26–33): Realizing God’s blessing upon Isaac, the
    Philistines propose a peace treaty with him. Isaac accepts and celebrates with a great feast.

V. ISAAC AND HIS SONS (26:34–28:9; 36:1–43)
   A. The pain (26:34–35): Esau marries two Hittite women, who make life miserable for
      Isaac and Rebekah.
   B. The preparations (27:1–4): Believing that death is near, Isaac instructs Esau to hunt
      some wild game and prepare a meal for him. Isaac promises to bless Esau following this
      meal.
   C. The plot (27:5–29)
      1. Conceived by Rebekah (27:5–17): Overhearing this conversation, Rebekah prepares a
         similar meal, disguises Jacob to resemble Esau, and sends him in to Isaac.
      2. Carried out by Jacob (27:18–29)
         a. The reluctance of Isaac (27:18–23): At first Isaac is confused, saying, “The voice
            is Jacob’s, but the hands are Esau’s.”
b. The reassurance by Jacob (27:24–29): Jacob convinces Isaac that he is indeed Esau and receives his father’s blessing.

D. **The perplexity** (27:30–33): As Jacob exits, Esau enters, ready to be blessed.

E. **The plea** (27:34–38): Weeping in sheer anger and frustration, Esau says: “O my father, bless me, too!”

F. **The prophecy** (27:39–40): Isaac predicts that Esau and his descendants will live by the sword and serve his brother for a time.

G. **The prejudice** (27:41): Esau vows to kill Jacob following the death of their father.

H. **The parting** (27:42–28:5)
   1. **Rebekah’s words to Jacob** (27:42–46): She urges him to escape Esau’s wrath by going to her hometown of Haran in Mesopotamia.
   2. **Isaac’s words to Jacob** (28:1–5): Isaac tells Jacob to go to Haran and choose a bride from his mother’s relatives.

I. **The perception (of Esau)** (28:6–9): Realizing that his Canaanite wives are a source of grief to his parents, Esau marries Mahalath, daughter of Ishmael (Abraham’s son through Hagar).

J. **The people (of Esau)** (36:1–43): This chapter is a list of Esau’s descendants.

**SECTION OUTLINE SEVEN (GENESIS 28:10–35, 37–38)**

This section covers the life of Jacob.

I. **The Traveler** (28:10–22)
   A. **Jacob’s vision** (28:10–15)
      1. **He sees the angels of God** (28:10–12): During a dream at Bethel, Jacob sees angels ascending and descending upon a stairway reaching from earth to heaven.
      2. **He sees the God of the angels** (28:13–15): The Lord is standing at the top of the stairway and reaffirms to Jacob the covenant he established with Abraham.
   B. **Jacob’s vow** (28:16–22): Upon waking, Jacob promises to serve God, but only if God protects him and provides for him.

II. **The Lover** (29:1–30)
   A. **Jacob’s love for Rachel** (29:1–17)
      1. **First meeting with Rachel** (29:1–12): Jacob meets Rachel by a well and rolls away a huge stone from its entrance so she can water her father’s sheep. Her father is Laban, Jacob’s uncle.
      2. **First meeting with Laban** (29:13–17): Jacob and Laban meet each other and decide that Jacob should work for Laban.
   B. **Jacob’s labor for Rachel** (29:18–30)
      1. **The diligence of Jacob** (29:18–21): Jacob asks to marry Rachel in exchange for seven years of work for Laban.
      2. **The deception of Laban** (29:22–30): On the eve of the wedding, Laban secretly substitutes Leah for Rachel, forcing Jacob to work yet another seven years.

   A. **Jacob’s four wives** (29:28–30; 30:1–4, 9)
1. Leah (29:28): Jacob’s first wife
2. Rachel (29:30): Jacob’s second wife
4. Zilpah (30:9): Leah’s servant
1. Reuben (29:31–32): Leah’s first son
2. Simeon (29:33): Leah’s second son
3. Levi (29:34): Leah’s third son
4. Judah (29:35): Leah’s fourth son
5. Dan (30:5–6): Bilhah’s first son
7. Gad (30:9–11): Zilpah’s first son
8. Asher (30:12–13): Zilpah’s second son
12. Benjamin (35:16–18): Rachel’s second son
C. Jacob’s one daughter, Dinah (through Leah) (30:21)

IV. THE EMPLOYEE (30:25–31:55)
A. The specification (30:25–43): Jacob agrees to continue working for Laban under certain conditions.
   1. The request (30:25–34): Jacob asks that he be allowed to keep all the speckled and spotted animals from the flock.
   2. The results (30:35–43): Jacob becomes a very wealthy man!
   1. The reasons for the separation (31:1–3, 13–16)
      a. Laban’s resentment (31:1–2): Laban’s sons turn his heart against his son-in-law, whom they envy.
      b. God’s revelation (31:3, 13): The Lord tells Jacob, “Return to the land of your father and grandfather.” So Jacob returns to Bethel.
   2. The review prompting the separation (31:4–13): Jacob feels Laban has deceived him, changing his wages on ten occasions (see 31:7, 41).
   3. The reunion following the separation (31:17–55)
      a. Frustration! (31:17–23): Laban learns that Jacob and his entire camp have left without informing him and evidently have stolen the family idols.
      b. Revelation! (31:24–25): During his ride to overtake Jacob, Laban is warned by God not to harm him.
      d. Explanation! (31:31–42): Jacob replies that Laban’s dishonesty caused him to leave. He says that he left secretly because of fear, but insists that he did not steal Laban’s gods.
e. Representation! (31:43–55): Both men agree to an uneasy truce, building a pile of stones to serve as a visible reminder.

V. THE WRESTLER (32:1–33:16)

A. Jacob’s communion with God (32:1–32)
   1. The presence (32:1–2): As Jacob and his family continue on their way, angels come and meet them.
   2. The plan (32:3–5): Upon learning that Esau is nearby, a frightened Jacob sends messengers to his brother, promising him great riches.
   3. The panic (32:6–8): The messengers return with some terrifying news: Esau is coming with four hundred men to meet Jacob.
   4. The prayer (32:9–12): Jacob “reminds” God of the covenant he established with Abraham and cries out for help.
   5. The payment (32:13–21): He attempts to bribe Esau by sending him great herds and flocks of goats, rams, camels, cattle, and donkeys.
   6. The power struggle (32:22–32)
      a. The travail (32:22–26): As Jacob is waiting alone by the Jabbok River during the night, a man comes and wrestles with him until dawn.
      b. The triumph (32:27–29): Jacob maintains the upper hand, and God changes his name from Jacob (meaning, “the deceiver”) to Israel (“one who struggles with God”).
      c. The testimony (32:30–32): Jacob calls the place Peniel, meaning “face of God.” Following this event, he will (literally) never walk the same again!

B. Jacob’s reunion with Esau (33:1–16)
   1. Jacob presents himself to Esau (33:1–4): Jacob bows seven times as he approaches Esau. To Jacob’s immense relief, Esau embraces and kisses him! Soon both are weeping for joy.
   2. Jacob presents his family to Esau (33:5–7)
   3. Jacob presents his flocks to Esau (33:8–16)


A. The returns (as ordered by God) (33:17–20; 35:1)
   1. To Shechem (33:17–20): Here Jacob buys a field and builds an altar, calling it El-Elohe-Israel, meaning “God, the God of Israel.”
   2. To Bethel (35:1): At God’s command, Jacob returns to Bethel, where he first saw the dream of the stairway to heaven.

B. The revival (35:2–7): Jacob collects and buries all the idols in his camp, ordering each person to “wash yourselves, and put on clean clothing.” Following this, Jacob builds an altar and calls it El-bethel, meaning “the God of the house of God.”

C. The revelation (35:9–15): God again confirms to Jacob the covenant he established with Abraham.


A. The funerals (35:8, 16–20, 27–29)
   1. The death of Deborah (35:8): She had been Rebekah’s former nurse.


1. *Murder, on the part of Simeon and Levi* (34:1–31): After Dinah is raped by Shechem, a local Canaanite prince, several events take place.
   a. **The suggestion** (34:3–12): Hamor, father of Shechem, meets with Jacob, proposing close relationships between both peoples, beginning with the marriage between Dinah and Shechem.
   b. **The subtlety** (34:13–24): Pretending to agree with this suggestion (but inwardly abhoring it), the brothers insist that Hamor and his men must first be circumcised.
   c. **The slaughter** (34:25–29): On the third day, when the men of the town are helpless because of their wounds from circumcision, Simeon and Levi walk into their camp and slaughter them!
   d. **The scandal** (34:30–31): Jacob rebukes his sons for causing his name to “stink” among the other Canaanites in the land, fearing that some might seek revenge.

2. *Adultery, on the part of Reuben* (35:21–22): Reuben sleeps with Bilhah, Jacob’s concubine and Rachel’s former servant.

3. *Sexual immorality and hypocrisy, on the part of Judah* (38:1–30)
   b. Judah’s choice (38:6–10): Judah chooses a woman named Tamar to be Er’s wife. But Er dies before fathering any children, leaving Onan to raise up a family for him through Tamar. But Onan also dies without fathering any children.
   c. Judah’s contract (38:11–13): Judah promises Tamar that Shelah, his youngest son, will someday take her as his wife.
   d. Judah’s carnality (38:14–23): Later, realizing this promise has not been kept, Tamar disguises herself as a prostitute and entices Judah to sleep with her.
   e. Judah’s condemnation (of Tamar) (38:24–25): Three months later, Judah learns of Tamar’s pregnancy and orders her to be burned. Tamar, however, quickly produces irrefutable evidence that the father of her unborn child is none other than Judah himself!
   f. Judah’s confession (38:26–30): A red-faced Judah acknowledges, “She is more in the right than I am.”

4. *Deceit and treachery, on the part of Jacob’s ten sons* (37:1–36): These brothers, jealous of their father’s special affection for Joseph, sell their younger brother into Egyptian slavery.¹