

Understanding the Bible

Lesson Four

What is God looking for in man?

I. God tests Abraham

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:1-2

A. Here's the obedience test

B. A place chosen by God

II. Moriah—The Temple Mount in Jerusalem

Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

II Chronicles 3:1

A. Moriah—The Temple Mount

III. Abraham's faith

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Genesis 22:5

A. We go and return

IV. God will provide

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said... Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.

Genesis 22:7-8

A. Abraham wavered not

V. Abraham passes the test

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Genesis 22:12

A. God will always ask us for the thing we love more than Him

VI. Sarah and Abraham's burial place

And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan.

Genesis 23:19

A. Machpelah in Hebron

VII. Seeking a wife for Isaac

And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

Genesis 24:3-4

A. Abraham's servant seeks a wife for Isaac

B. Rebekah—Laban's sister

VIII. Abraham dies

Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people. And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah.

Genesis 23:8-9

A. Isaac and Ishmael buried him

B. Machpelah in Hebron

IX. Esau and Jacob are born

And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Genesis 25:23

A. Esau is the eldest and possesses the birthright

X. Esau sells his birthright

And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

Genesis 25:31-33

A. Esau sold eternal things for the temporary

XI. God confirms His covenant with Isaac

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries.

Genesis 28:13-15

A. Abraham's promise had to become Isaac's promise

XII. Esau marries who he wants

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: Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.

Genesis 26:34-35

A. Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers

B. Outside of salvation, choosing a mate is the most important decision we will ever make

XIII. Jacob gets the blessing

Let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

Genesis 27:29

A. Jacob the supplanter

B. This promise is still in force today

C. The United States should always befriend Israel

XIV. Jacob flees from Esau

Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran.

Genesis 27:42-43

XV. Abraham's promise becomes Jacob's promise

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.

Genesis 28:12-13

A. Now God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

XVI. The house of God—The gate of heaven

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, how dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven...And he called the name of that place Bethel.

Genesis 28:16-19

A. Bethel

XVII. Jacob works for Laban

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

Genesis 29:20

A. Is given Leah instead

B. The deceiver is deceived

XVIII. Jacob works seven more years for Rachel

And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

Genesis 29:28

XIX. Time to meet his brother Esau

And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee... Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Genesis 32:9-12

- A. Jacob is standing on the promises
- B. His life depends on God keeping His promises

XX. God wrestles with Jacob

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day... And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Genesis 32:24-26

- A. God is trying to get the Jacob out of Jacob
- B. He doesn't want to eliminate that burning desire in Jacob for the things of God

XXI. Jacob becomes Israel

And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

Genesis 32:27-28

- A. The name change only came after the nature change
- B. One night's prayer meeting changed history forever

XXII. God won't reveal His name

And Jacob asked him, and said, tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

Genesis 32:29

- A. God's name was kept secret throughout the Old Testament

XXIII. Jacob meets Esau

And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.

Genesis 33:3-4

- A. When Jacob got right with God, it became easy to get right with his brother

XXIV. Jacob's sons—Twelve tribes of Israel

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun: The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin: And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali: And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher.

Genesis 35:22-26

XXV. Isaac dies

And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned. And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years. And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 35:27-29

- A. Esau and Jacob bury him in Hebron

XXVI. Next week:

- A. Joseph
- B. Jacob and his sons move to Egypt