

In the midst of continued deception, parental favoritism, lying, and hatred, Rebekah sends Jacob to her brother Laban, where she perceives he will be safe. Jacob departs, partly under the guise of looking for a spouse among their "people". Lonely, scared, and without much of anything, Jacob sets out on a long journey.

Genesis 28:1-22

Jacob's Dream

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

How do your circumstances affect the way you perceive God and His presence in your life? Does He seem distant most of the time, or just some of the time? Do you fight to know and experience His presence when things don't go your way, or are you able to know it even in the midst of life's storms?

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHEN would you say you've seen the Lord most "active" in your life?

IS it difficult to trust that God is present when things appear spiritually quiet?

DO you tend to rely on your feelings in order to experience God?

DESCRIBE a time when God worked in you through the midst of a lonely or quiet season of your life.

Genesis 28:1-22

Jacob's Dream

Read Genesis 28:1-22

OBSERVATION

What does Isaac tell Jacob upon his departure in vs. 1-4?

Why does Esau desire to take another wife from Ishmael, according to vs. 8?

In vs. 10, where does Jacob depart, and to where does he go?

Describe what Jacob sees in his dream from vs. 12-15.

Upon waking, how does Jacob respond to his dream (vs. 16-17)?

What does Jacob name this location in vs. 19?

Paraphrase the vow Jacob makes in vs. 20-22.

INTERPRETATION

Recall the context of chapter 28 and why Jacob flee to Haran from 27:41-46. Do the circumstances surrounding this situation seem righteous? Explain your response.

Why do Isaac and Rebekah not want Jacob to take a wife from the Canaanite women? See 24:2-4.

In vs. 6-9 Esau takes another wife from Ishmael's family. From where do his other wives come (vs. 9)? Consider 26:34-35 and what this reveals about Esau? To whom does it appear he is seeking approval. See 25:28?

Consider the length of Jacob's journey. How far is Haran from Beersheba?

What is Jacob's situational reality? What does he have, who is with him, where is he going, what seems to be his state of mind, etc.?

What do you think of when you consider God's angels and their purposes (see 2 Kings 6:15-17 for reference). What is God showing Jacob in this dream?

Why is Jacob afraid after waking from this experience? What role does fear play in gaining a right view of God. See Proverbs 1:6.

Explain the change of heart it appears that Jacob has undergone from the text in vs. 18-22.

APPLICATION

What do you learn about God's presence in Jacob's life from this passage? How does this relate to His presence in yours today?