

Message Ten

Jacob (1)–Being Chosen, Dealt with, and Broken

Scripture reading: Gen. 25:21-26, 29-34; 27:1-29, 41-46; 28:1-5; 29:15-30; 31:1-15, 38-41; 32:1-2, 13-21;32:22-32; 33:1-4; 35:10, 15; 47:7, 10

I. Jacob was chosen by God; therefore, in Jacob we see God’s selection–Gen. 25:21-26; Rom. 9:11.

A. Jacob was born as a “heel-holder” or a “supplanter”; In nature he was calculating, crafty, clever, and even wicked–Gen. 25:26.

1. Jacob was struggling within his mother’s womb–25:22-26.
2. He supplanted the birthright from Esau; he was a person who used his own strength to gain what God wanted to give to him–vv.29-34.
3. He received his father’s blessing through deception–27:1-29, 41-46.

B. Yet, God loved Jacob and selected him–25:13; Mal. 1:2; Eph. 1:4; 2:4.

C. Jacob was chosen before his birth, even before the foundation of the world, according to the foreknowledge of God–Gen. 25:22-23; Eph. 1:4; 1Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:29.

1. It was not of his own works, nor was it the issue of his own struggle and strife–Gen. 25:22-23, 26.
2. It was of God who calls, of God’s mercy, and of God’s grace–Rom. 9:11-16; 11:5.
3. God’s purpose for Jacob was to deal with him until he was transformed into Israel, a prince of God, bearing His image to express Him and exercising His dominion to represent Him–Gen. 1:26; 2Tim. 1:9; Gen. 32:28; 35:10; 47:7, 10.

II. Jacob’s life is a life that represents God’s dealings, and the God of Jacob is the God of dealings–31:38-41.

A. Twenty five and half chapters in Genesis are devoted to the record of Jacob with Joseph.

1. God’s dealing and transformation process involves a life-long process and includes many details.

2. Every circumstance, situation, and person (e.g. Esau, Isaac, Rebecca, Laban, Jacob's wives, maids, sons and daughter) found in the record of Jacob's life was used to transform this supplanter into a prince of God—Rom. 8:28
- B. God destined Jacob to live a struggling life all his days; from his mother's womb to the end of his life, he was struggling—Gen. 25:22-26, 29-34; 27:1-29, 41-46; 28:1-5; 29:15-30; 31:1-16.
- C. Under God's sovereignty, through the sufferings in his circumstances and through God's direct dealing, Jacob was transformed and matured so that he became Israel—35:10.
- D. Jacob's history is a picture of the discipline of the Holy Spirit—47:9; 48:15-16a; Heb. 12:9-11; Rom. 8:28.

III. Genesis 32:22-32 relates a vital and crucial experience in the life of Jacob—his being broken.

- A. For twenty years in Haran, God had subdued and disciplined Jacob, but Jacob was still Jacob; he was still very capable in himself, he had all kinds of schemes—cf. vv. 1-2, 13-21.
- B. At Peniel, the Lord wrestled with Jacob in order to expose to him how natural he was and how great his natural strength was—v.24, 30.
 1. The touching of the socket of Jacob's hip at the thigh muscle, the strongest muscle in the body, signifies the touching of Jacob's natural life, his natural strength—v. 25, 32.
 2. It was not the outward living that was touched by the Lord but the inward, natural strength that was broken by Him—33:1-4; 32:25, 32.
- C. Jacob's experience shows us that God has to break our natural life, that He has to touch our natural life in a drastic way—vv.22-32.
- D. Every believer needs to experience the breaking of the outer man—Heb. 4:12.
 1. Our outer man needs to be broken for the release of the spirit—v.12.
 2. In order for there to be a pure flow of the life of God from within us, we must be broken—John 12:24-26; 19:34; 7:37-39; Exo. 17:6-7.
 3. Every part of our soul needs to be broken by God—Matt. 16:24-25.
 4. Breaking is a prerequisite for building—v.18; Eph. 4:16.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Gen. 25:21-26. **21** And Isaac entreated Jehovah for his wife because she was barren. And Jehovah was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. **22** And the children struggled with each other within her. And she said, If it is so, why am I like this? And she went to inquire of Jehovah. **23** And Jehovah said to her, Two nations are in your womb, And two peoples shall be separated from your bowels. And the one people shall be stronger than the other people. And the older shall serve the younger. **24** And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. **25** And the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. **26** And after that his brother came forth, and his hand was holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. And Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Gen. 25:29-34. **29** And Jacob cooked a stew. And Esau came in from the field, and he was faint. **30** And Esau said to Jacob, Let me swallow down some of the red stew, that red stew there, for I am faint. Therefore his name was called Edom. **31** And Jacob said, First sell me your birthright. **32** And Esau said, I am now about to die, so of what use is this birthright to me? **33** And Jacob said, First swear to me. And he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. **34** And Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose up and went away. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Gen. 27:1-29. **1** Now when Isaac was old, and his eyes had become so dim that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, My son. And he said to him, Here I am. **2** And he said, Behold now, I am old, and I do not know the day of my death. **3** Now then, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me, **4** And prepare for me a tasty meal, such as I love, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die. **5** Now Rebekah had been listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring it home, **6** Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, I just heard your father speaking to Esau your brother, saying, **7** Bring me game, and prepare for me a tasty meal so that I may eat it and bless you before Jehovah before my death. **8** Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, according to that which I command you. **9** Go now to the flock, and take two choice kids for me from there, and I will prepare them as a tasty meal for your father, such as he loves. **10** Then you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before his death. **11** And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. **12** Perhaps my father will feel me, and I will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing. **13** And his mother said to him, Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me. **14** And he went and got them and brought them to his mother; and his mother prepared a tasty meal, such as his father loved. **15** And Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. **16** And she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. **17** And she put the tasty meal and the bread that she had prepared into the hand of Jacob her son. **18** And he came to his father and said, My father. And he said, Here I am. Who are you, my son? **19** And Jacob said to his father, I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Now rise up; sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me. **20** And Isaac said to his son, How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because Jehovah your God put it in my way. **21** And

Isaac said to Jacob, Please come near that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not. **22** And Jacob came near to Isaac his father. And he felt him and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are Esau's hands. **23** And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. **24** And he said, Are you really my son Esau? And he said, I am. **25** And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, that I may bless you. So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. **26** Then his father Isaac said to him, Please come near and kiss me, my son. **27** So he came near and kissed him; and when Isaac smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said, See, the smell of my son - Like the smell of a field Which Jehovah has blessed. **28** And may God give you Of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine. **29** Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, And blessed be those who bless you.

Gen. 27:41-46. **41** And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will slay my brother Jacob. **42** And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah, so she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, Now your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you by planning to kill you. **43** Therefore, my son, obey my voice now, and rise up; flee to Laban my brother at Haran, **44** And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, **45** Until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send word and get you back from there. Why should I be bereaved of both of you in one day? **46** And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?

Gen. 28:1-5. **1** And Isaac called Jacob and blessed him; and he charged him and said to him, You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. **2** Rise up, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take from there a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. **3** And may the All-sufficient God bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. **4** And may He give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your seed with you, that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham. **5** And Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramaean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

Gen. 29:15-30. **15** And Laban said to Jacob, Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be? **16** Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17** And Leah's eyes were dull, but Rachel was beautiful in form and beautiful in appearance. **18** And Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter. **19** And Laban said, It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man; stay with me. **20** And Jacob served seven years for Rachel, but they seemed to him only a few days because of the love he had for her. **21** And Jacob said to Laban, Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed. **22** And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. **23** But in the evening he took Leah his daughter and brought her to him, and he went in to her. **24** And Laban gave Zilpah his female servant to his daughter Leah to be her female servant. **25** And in the morning there she was, Leah! And he said to Laban, What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?

26 And Laban said, It is not done in this way in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn. **27** Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you will serve with me for another seven years. **28** And Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave him Rachel his daughter as a wife. **29** And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his female servant to be her female servant. **30** And he went in also to Rachel and also loved Rachel rather than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

Gen. 31:1-15. **1** Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob has taken away all that belonged to our father; and from what belonged to our father he has made all this wealth. **2** And Jacob saw Laban's countenance, and now it was not favorable toward him as previously. **3** And Jehovah said to Jacob, Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you. **4** So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field. **5** And he said to them, I see that your father's countenance is not favorable toward me as previously, but the God of my father has been with me. **6** And you yourselves know that with all my strength I have served your father. **7** And your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to harm me. **8** If he spoke in this way, The speckled shall be your wages, then all the flock bore speckled; and if he spoke in this way, The streaked shall be your wages, then all the flock bore streaked. **9** Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given them to me. **10** And at the time flock was breeding, I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream; and there were the male goats, leaping upon the flock – streaked, speckled, and spotted. **11** And the Angel of God said to me in the dream, Jacob; and I said, Here I am. **12** And He said, Lift up your eyes now, and see that all the male goats which leap upon the flock are streaked, speckled and spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. **13** I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you vowed a vow to Me, Rise up now; go out from this land, and return to the land of your birth. **14** And Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, Do we still have any portion or inheritance in our father's house? **15** Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us and has even entirely used up the money given for us.

Gen. 31:38-41. **38** These twenty years have I been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. **39** That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself. Of my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. **40** Thus I was: By day the dry heat consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. **41** These twenty years have I been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

Gen. 32:1-2. **1** And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. **2** And Jacob said when he saw them, This is God's camp. So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

Gen. 32:13-21. **13** And he spent that night there. Then from what he had with him he took a present for Esau his brother: **14** Two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, **15** Thirty nursing camels and their young, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. **16** And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, Cross over before me, and put a space between each drove. **17** And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, To whom do you belong? And where are you going? And whose animals are these before you? **18** Then you will say, Your servant Jacob's; it is a present sent to my lord Esau; and now he also is behind us. **19** And he commanded also the second and the third, and all who followed the droves, saying,

In this way you shall speak to Esau when you find him, **20** And you shall also say, Your servant Jacob is right behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me. **21** So the present crossed over before him, and he himself spent that night in the camp.

Gen. 32:22-32. 22 And he rose up that night and took his two wives and his two female servants and his eleven children and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. **23** And he took them and sent them over the stream and sent over what he had. **24** And Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. **25** And when the man saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated as he wrestled with Him. **26** And the man said, Let Me go, for the dawn is breaking. But Jacob said, I will not let You go unless You bless me. **27** And He said to him, What is your name? And he said, Jacob. **28** And He said, Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed. **29** And Jacob asked Him and said, Please tell me Your name. But He said, Why is it that you ask My name? And He blessed him there. **30** And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, for, he said, I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been preserved. **31** And the sun rose upon him as he crossed over Penuel, and he limped because of his hip. **32** Therefore the children of Israel do not eat the thigh muscle, which is upon the socket of the hip, to this day, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip at the thigh muscle.

Gen. 33:1-4. 1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and there was Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and among Rachel and among the two female servants. **2** And he put the female servants and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. **3** And he himself passed on before them and bowed down to the ground seven times until he came near to his brother. **4** And Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

Gen. 35:10 And God said to him, Your name is Jacob; Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name. Thus He called his name Israel.

Gen 35:15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God has spoken to him Bethel

Gen. 47:7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Gen. 47:10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went forth from Pharaoh's presence.

I.

Rom. 9:11-16. 11 Though *the children* had not yet been born nor had done anything good or bad (that the purpose of God according to selection might remain, not of works but of Him who calls), **12** It was said to her, "The greater shall serve the less"; **13** As it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." **14** What then shall we say? Is there unrighteousness with God? Absolutely not! **15** For to Moses He says, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion" **16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Mal. 1:2 I have loved you, says Jehovah; but you say, How have You loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother, declares Jehovah? Yet I loved Jacob;

Eph. 1:4-5. 4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without

blemish before Him in love, **5** Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

Eph. 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Rom. 11:5 In the same way then at the present time also there has come into being a remnant according to the selection of grace.

1 Pet. 1:2 Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

Rom. 8:28-29. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

2Tim. 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

II.

Gen. 47:9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, The years of my sojourning are one hundred thirty years, few and evil have been the years of my life, and they have not attained to the years of the lives of my fathers during the days of their sojourning.

Gen 48:15-16a. 15 And he blessed Joseph and said, The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has shepherded me all my life to this day, **16a** The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys;...

Heb. 12:9-11. 9 Furthermore we have had the fathers of our flesh as discipliners and we respected them; shall we not much more be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they disciplined for a few days as it seemed good to them, but He, for what is profitable that we might partake of His holiness **11** Now no discipline at the present time seems to be a matter of joy, but of grief; but afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been exercised by it.

III

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

John 12:24-26. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life. **26** If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

John 7:37-39. **37** Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. **39** But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Exo. 17:6-7. **6** I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel and because they tested Jehovah, saying, Is Jehovah among us or not?

Matt. 16:24-25. **24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. **25** For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.