

- What does this say about the fulfillment of the promises?

- 1) Abraham was Swindled
- 2) Admits he is “alien & stanger”

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners (aliens) and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. Hebrews 11:13-14

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they would receive the promises (be made perfect). Heb 11:39-40

- 3) Abraham is the answer to the breaking up of nations at Babel. Gen 12:3

- **Overview of Gen 12:25 - One Theme of LAND - NATION - LEADER**

- 12 - abandons wife
- 15 - tried the “adopt a seed” program
- 16 - sleeps with the maid
- 17-18 laughs at the promise
- 20 - abandons wife... again
- 22 - sacrifices seed

- So, what was Abraham in Gen 22?

*Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? **22** ... And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ **15:6** and he was called God’s friend.”*

James 2:21-23

- Theological - revealing WHO God is - to draw the reader into relationship with him.
- Abraham is the perfect picture of what God wants to do in all of our lives. Deep friendship with God is the ultimate goal.

- **Jacob: The UN-Abraham**

- God's promises to Jacob...
- The Transfer of the Promises to Jacob rather than Esau, Chapter 25.

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. (hairy) After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. (heel grabber, deceiver) Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

- We know the meaning of a name is really important when the Bible makes a big deal out of it.

- **First**, the **BIRTHRIGHT** (double portion of the inheritance = $\frac{2}{3}$), Genesis 25:27-34

*The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, **selling his birthright to Jacob**. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.*

- **Second**, the REAL GOAL comes into view - the **BLESSING!** Isaac gets the promises. Not the "She's my sister" routine, again.

The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, Gen 26:2-4

- When God first made those promises in Gen 12, what was the first story that taught us that God was totally, unconditionally committed to keeping those promises for Abraham? When Abraham pretends that Sarah is his sister, God intervenes.

- Chapter 26: Again... Rebekah goes to Abimelech, God supernaturally intervenes. The promises are UNCONDITIONAL for Isaac too. 100X increase in crops!

*Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year **reaped a hundredfold**, because the Lord **blessed** him. Gen 26:12*

- Chapter 27: Jacob lies repeatedly to get the blessing (7+)

She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made. He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?" Jacob said to his father, "(1) I am Esau (2) your firstborn. (3) I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of (4) my game, so that you may give me your blessing." Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" (5) "The LORD your God gave me success," he replied.

Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." (6) Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. (7) "I am," he replied.

"May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness- an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be LORD over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."

After Isaac finished blessing him... his brother Esau came in from hunting. Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" "I am... your firstborn, Esau." Isaac trembled violently.

He (Isaac) said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."

Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? (deceiver) He has deceived (Jacob) me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!"

Genesis 27:16-24, 28-29, 32-33, 35, 36a

- Do you think Jacob's sorry for his behavior? Probably not. He seems to be arrogant and self-sufficient. He heads out of town to avoid being killed by this brother.

He stops at Bethel - strange dream of angels going up and down a staircase to God. God was offering a relationship with Jacob because he didn't have one yet.

He (Jacob on earth) had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Gen 28:12

*Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote-Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite **in whom there is no deceit. (Jacob)** " "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." **He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."***

- Jacob's response:

*"If you do good stuff for me over the next few years, **THEN you'll be my God.**"*

- He did not believe God, he was not credited with righteousness. Jacob basically refuses God's offer of a relationship with Him. What will God have to do to Jacob for him to see how much he needs God?
- **God's blessings evidenced on Jacob even while sojourning in a foreign land.**
 - God's **Discipline** for Jacob
 - God's **Blessing** of Jacob (in spite of himself!) Just because God blesses Jacob doesn't mean he is orange (his child) any more than Cain was orange.

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matt 5:45

- Chapter 29: Jacob meets Rachel.

Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

*So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his **love** for her. But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob... When morning came, there was Leah!*

So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived (Jacob) me?" Genesis 29:16-18, 20, 23,25

- Timeline: Jacob works 7 years & marries Leah. Finishes the bridal week & marries Rachel. Works another 7 years to pay her off.
- God's **Blessing** of Jacob (in spite of himself continued...)
 - His kids - what is the basic operating principle with the wives. Fertility contest between Leah and Rachel.

During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"

"Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."

- His other "kids": - what was the basic operating principle of Jacob?

Jacob replied. "But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them: Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages. And my honesty will testify for me in the future, ... any lamb that is not dark-colored, will be considered stolen."

Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches. Then he placed the peeled branches in all the watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the flocks when they came to drink. When the flocks were in heat and came to drink, they mated in front of the branches. And they bore young that were streaked or speckled or spotted.

Gen 30:31-33, 39

- Chapter 31: God's protection of Jacob as he returns. This family deceives, steals, manipulates, and trusts in gods.
 - What's your name again?
 - And Rachel and her saddlebags.

When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods. Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away... Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel's saddle and was sitting on them. Laban searched through everything in the tent but found nothing.

Rachel said to her father, “Don’t be angry, my lord, that I cannot stand up in your presence; I’m having my period.” Gen 31:19-20, 35

- Chapter 32: Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau

Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, “We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred (armed) men are with him.”

***Then Jacob prayed,** “O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, ‘Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,’ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. But you have said, ‘I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.’”*

*He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau... He put them in the care of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, “Go ahead of me, and keep some space between the herds.” So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he **touched the socket of Jacob’s hip** so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.*

*Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak. But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. Then the man said, “**Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,** because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”*

*Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there. **So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”***

Gen 31:3, 6, 9-13, 16, 24-30

- **Who is the man?** An angel in human form who represents God or is God himself. He keeps wrestling because he needs security, safety and needs blessed.
- **Why “touch” the hip?** Stubborn Jacob just won’t quit.
- **Why ask his name after the fighting?** If you want the blessing, you have to tell me who you are... what you are inside... deceiver, liar, manipulator, cheater, I depend on myself and I do everything that’s in my best interests.

- **How does Jacob “overcome”?**
 - Stops fighting
 - Confesses his character
 - Asks for the blessing **in faith**. We see a complete change in Jacob.

Chapter 35: Jacob returns to the Land... Goes back to Bethel and starts over.

Then God said to Jacob, “Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.” So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. So they gave Jacob all their foreign gods and all their earrings, and Jacob buried them under the oak near Shechem. As they set out, a (fear) terror from God fell over the surrounding cities, so that they did not pursue Jacob’s sons.

And God said to him, “I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you.” Genesis 1-2, 4, 11-12

- Why would He call Himself the “God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob”?
- Do you identify more with Abraham or Jacob?