

Saturday Study

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Los Altos Grace
in Room 13

Guided by Lee Wadsworth



Week 3
Genesis 24-36

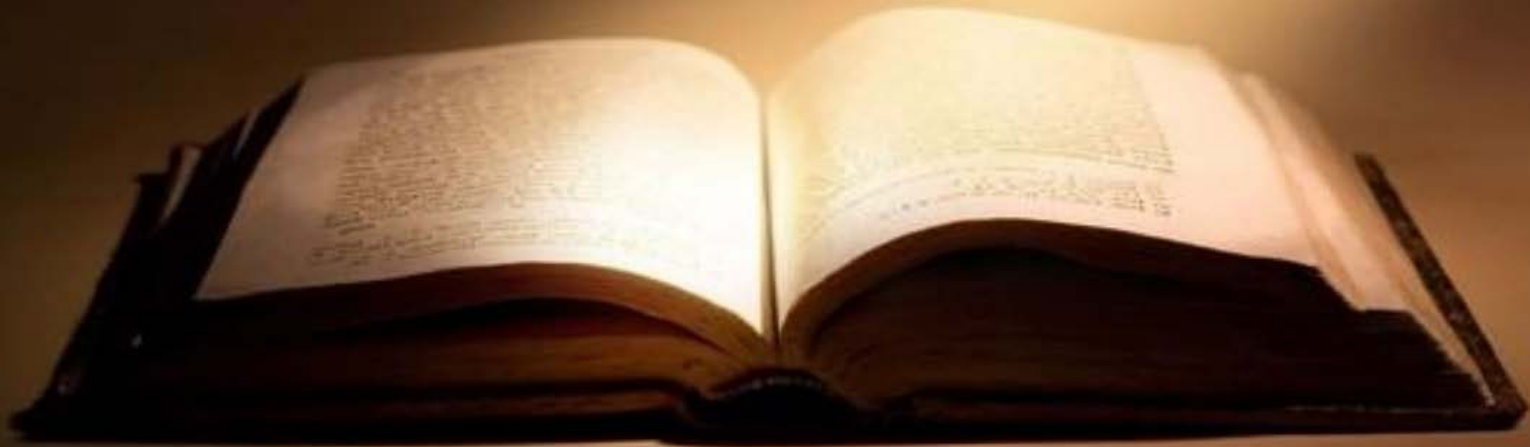
Study Details Online - LosAltosGrace.org/Saturday

Reminder

- We are the salt of the earth – my job is not to feed you, but to make you thirsty
- ALWAYS check it out for yourself
 - **Acts 17:10,11** Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24



Prophecy – Communication from God

- Hebrews 1:1 God, who at ***various times*** and in ***various ways*** spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [emphasis added]
- Prophecy is sharing a message from God
 - It can be expressed as a message for the current situation,
 - Or a message about the future

Messages and Types

- Prophecy can be spoken or written
- It can be a specific message or a “type”
 - A type is an example which communicates a message
 - Parable
 - Historical thing that reflects something deeper

Types of Types

- Scripture often uses “types” and God treats them seriously
- They can be an object
 - The brass serpent lifted up in the desert to heal
- A person (typically part of a larger narrative)
 - Enoch as a type of the church being raptured before the tribulation
- An event or a story
 - Moses striking the rock instead of speaking to it

The Story of Isaac and Rebekah

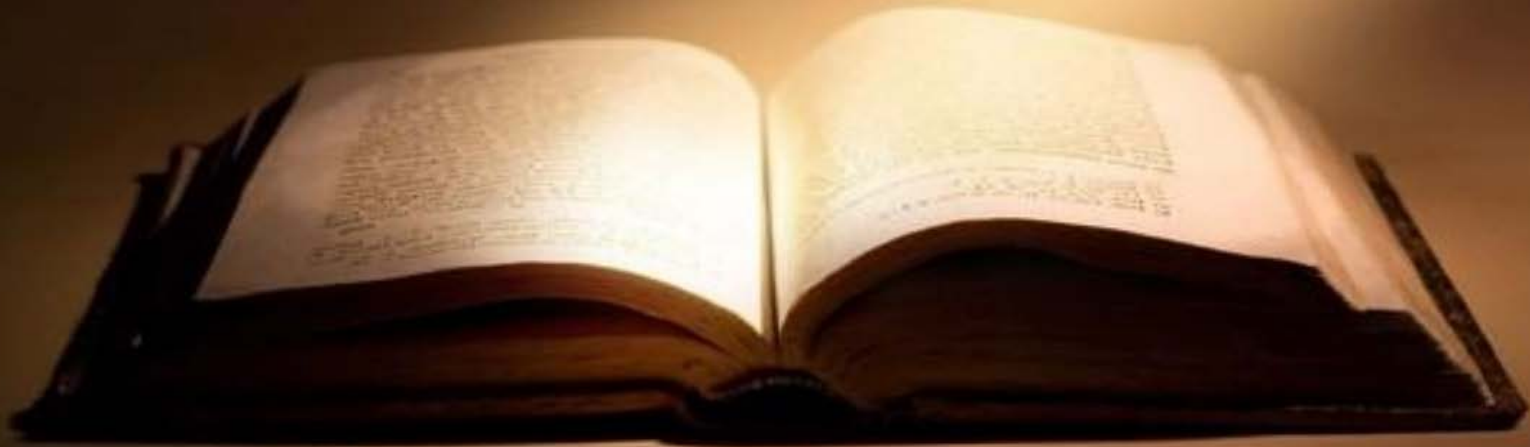
- A wonderful type of Jesus and His bride, the Church
- Cast of characters:
 - Abraham – God the Father
 - Isaac – Jesus
 - Waiting for his bride
 - Abraham’s servant [Eleazar “comforter”?] – The Holy Spirit
 - Unnamed, glorifies Father and Son
 - Gives wonderful gifts that glorify the Father and Son
 - Rebekah – The bride, the Church
 - Goes willingly, drawn by the Spirit, sight unseen
 - Described as VERY beautiful – this is how God sees us!
 - Sarah – Israel

Notes on the Story

- Servant sets up a very unlikely fleece regarding God's will
 - God already knows what we need, our prayers open up the opportunity for Him to meet those needs
- Bride must be brought to Isaac – Abraham says beware to NOT bring Isaac to the bride
- **Genesis 24:27** And he said, "Blessed *be* the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, ***being on the way, the LORD led me*** to the house of my master's brethren." [emphasis added]
 - Easier to turn a moving ship
- Laban is Rebekah's brother

Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25



Abraham

- Took another wife, several kids, gave them gifts
- BUT – gave all he had to Isaac
- **Genesis 25:8** Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full *of years*, and was gathered to his people.
- Buried with Sarah – by Isaac and Ishmael
 - Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Leah also buried there
- Offspring of Abraham's other kids and Ishmael mentioned briefly, but not followed – the story is of Jesus, the Messiah.

Birth of Jacob and Esau

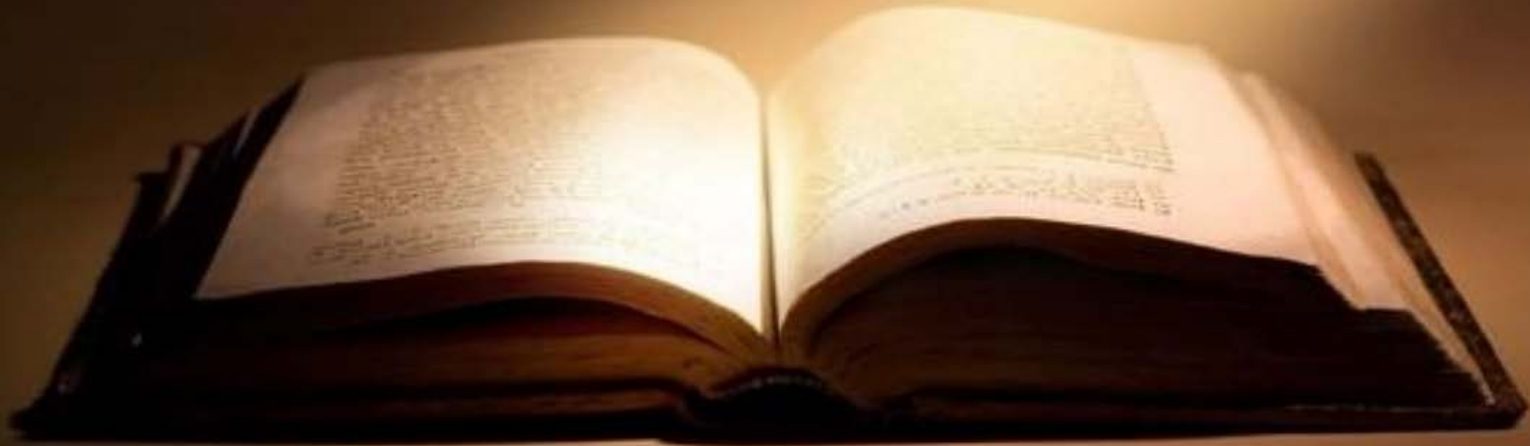
- Rebekah was barren for about 20 years
- Esau means "hairy". Edom means "red"; this was Esau's nickname.
- Jacob means "heel-catcher or supplanter".
- Esau was a hunter and man of the field loved by Isaac, Jacob was a mild man loved by Rebekah
- **Malachi 1:2-3** "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' *Was not Esau Jacob's brother?*" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; 3 But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."

Esau Sells His Birthright

- “The older will serve the younger”
- The birthright was the right of the firstborn to take precedence over his brothers
 - Included a double portion of the estate
- Firstborn was to be the head and priest of the family
- Esau was VERY hungry but thought so little of the birthright that he sold it for a hearty meal of red lentil soup
 - Tried to repent later
- Jacob (shrewd bargainer) saw the birthright as important
- Esau was the father of the Edomites – the first people that opposed Israel when they came back from captivity in Egypt
- Last known Edomites were the family of Herod

Isaac Copies Dad

Genesis 26



The Sin of the Father

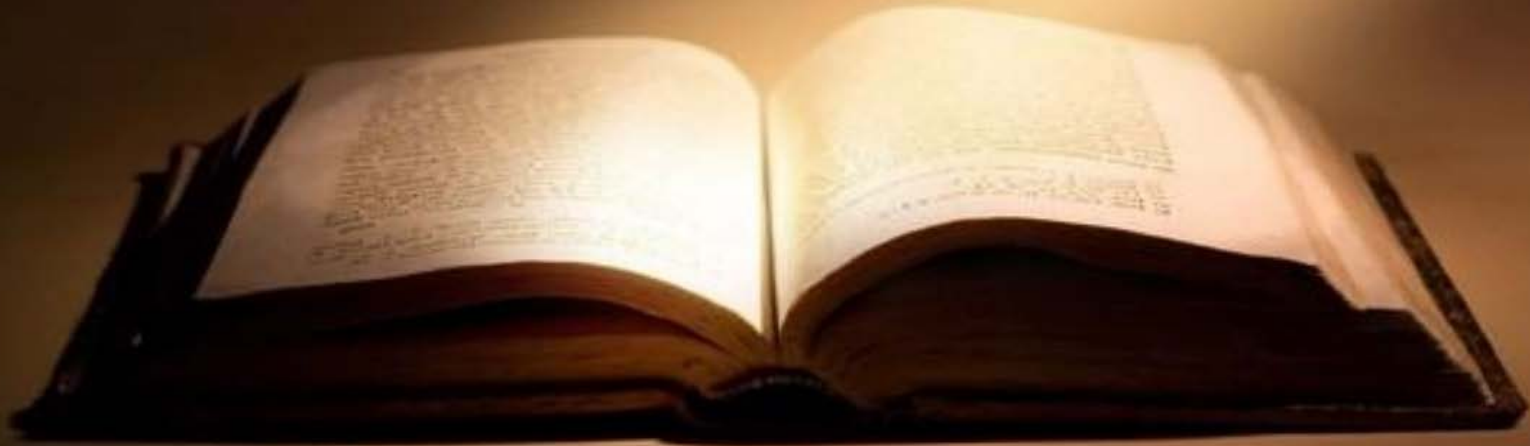
- Note: Abimelech is probably a title more than a name
- Isaac, like his father, went to Gerar during a famine
- Isaac, like his father, called his wife his sister (wholly not true)
- God blessed Isaac richly – not because of his own righteousness, but because of God's promise

Notes

- As soon as Isaac moved as God wanted – God appeared to him
 - Revelation, obedience, revelation, obedience
- Beersheba – the well of the oath, the well of the covenant
- When Esau was 40, he married a couple of Hittite women
 - probably brought along their culture and their gods
 - This was also part of why Rebekah wanted Jacob to return to her brother Laban in Haran instead of taking a local wife

Isaac is Tricked

Genesis 27



Chapter 27

- We can desire the blessing without being willing to precede it with following completely
- Interesting that Isaac is bedridden and virtually blind, yet lives for at least 20 more years
- God used this deception to accomplish His purposes – once again people trying to help God do what He wants to do
 - Side effect – Esau was FURIOUS and threatened Jacob's life
 - Edomites were a huge problem for Israel
- Esau desired the inheritance, not the real blessing of God
- Jacob wasn't worried about deceiving, but about getting caught

The Blessing

- **Hebrews 11:20** By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
- **Genesis 27:27-29** And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son *is* like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed. 28 Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. 29 Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone who curses you, And blessed *be* those who bless you!"

Notes

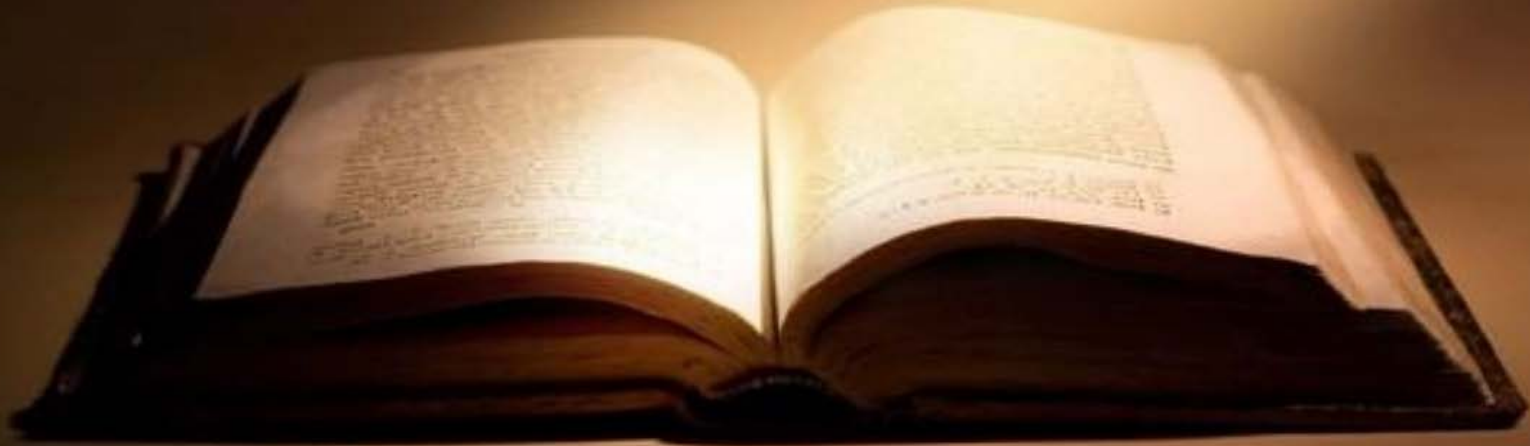
- Notice that Isaac wasn't mad – rather that he trembled with FEAR – possible that he recognized that God's will had prevailed over what he was trying to do
- Isaac's prophecies did come true
 - Israel ruled over Edom
 - Edom eventually broke free and set up their own king
- Jacob found favor with the Father because he sheltered / hid himself in the name of the Father's beloved son and was clothed in his garments

The Plan of Esau

- Esau's plan: wait until Dad dies, then kill Jacob
- He must have talked about it – Rebekah heard of it
 - So she told Jacob to flee to Laban in Haran to give Esau time to cool off
 - She told Isaac she wanted Jacob to get a good wife
 - There were probably some communications between Isaac/Rebekah and Laban

Jacob Gets Married

Genesis 28-30



Chapter 28

- Isaac confirms and enlarges the blessing
 - Confirms Jacob as the recipient of God's blessing to Abraham
- Esau tries to curry favor by marrying a better wife – an Ishmaelite – incomplete obedience
- Jacob stops at Bethel after about 35 miles – the same place where God had blessed Abraham
- The blessing of God was much greater than the blessing of Isaac
 - God also confirmed that the Messiah (seed singular) would come through Jacob
- Jacob's initial response to God: "If..." then the LORD shall be my God and I will tithe
- Jesus is the ladder – access to God is through Him
 - **John 1:51** And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Love, Deception, and Leah

- Jacob had no dowry – fled without possessions
- Laban was a scheming trickster
- God brought Jacob to Laban's family and Rachel
- Jacob served for 7 years for Rachel
 - Laban tricked him with Leah
 - Leah is the innocent victim in much of this
- Jacob got Rachel as well, but worked 7 more years
- Rachel started off barren, Leah had sons
- Each gave Jacob their handmaiden to have even more kids

The Twelve Tribes

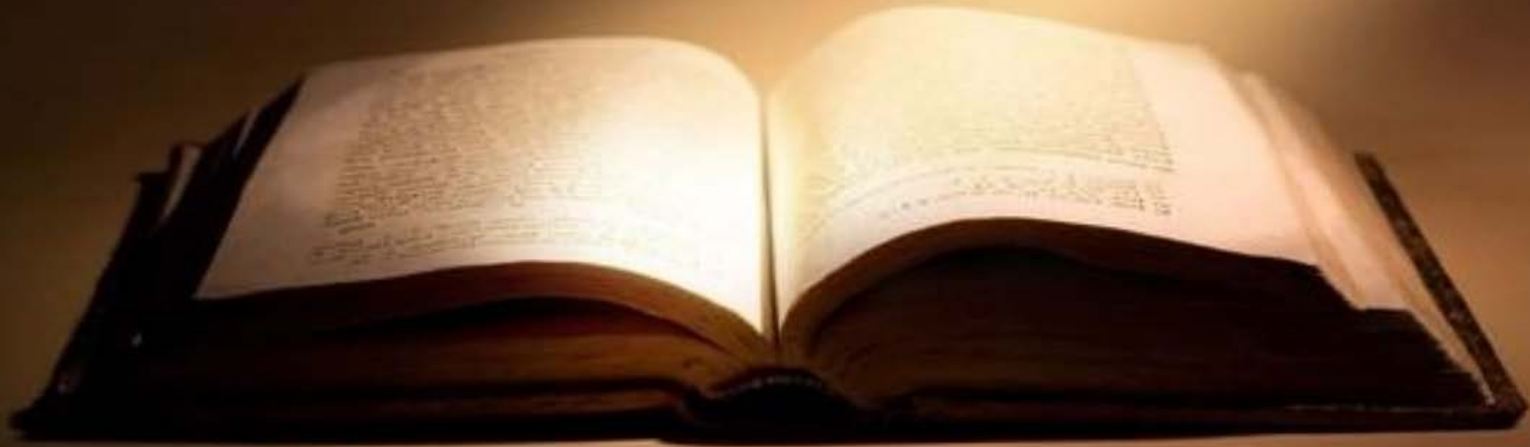
01-Reuben	See, a son	Leah	09-Issachar	Man of hire	Leah
02-Simeon	Hearing	Leah	10-Zebulun	Dwelling	Leah
03-Levi	Joined; attached	Leah	11-Joseph	Increaser	Rachel
04-Judah	Yah be praised	Leah	12-Benjamin	Son of the right hand	Rachel
05-Dan	Judge	Bilhah (R)			
06-Naphtali	My wrestling	Bilhah (R)			
07-Gad	Troop; invader; good fortune	Zilpah (L)	11a-Ephraim and Joseph	Fruitful	Asenath
08-Asher	Happy	Zilpah (L)	11b-Manasseh and Joseph	Forgetful	Asenath

Jacob Becomes Rich

- Jacob wanted to go home, Laban liked having him work. God was blessing Laban greatly through Jacob.
- Jacob wanted to be able to tell easily whose sheep were whose – moved three days away, and contracted solid versus speckled and marked
- Jacob tried to make it happen that the stronger sheep would not be solid colors – but God is who really made it happen
- **Genesis 30:43** Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

Time to go Home

Genesis 31



Time to Go

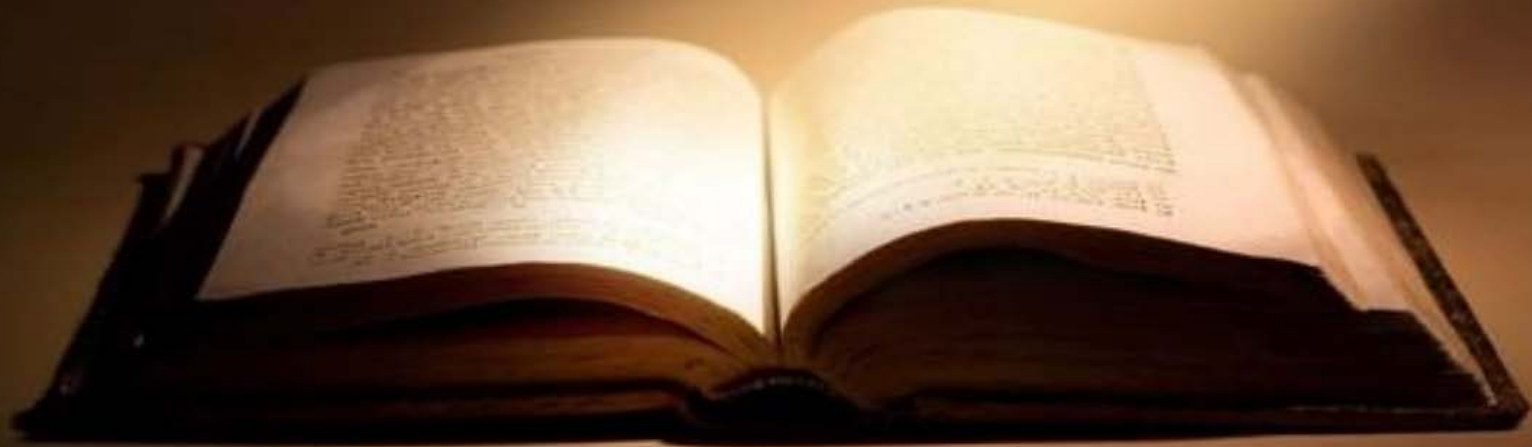
- Overall Jacob served Laban 20 years (7+7+6)
- Jacob became rich, as God blessed him. Laban and his sons became very jealous.
- Bad situation – Laban changed the agreement 10 times, but God was smarter than Laban
- Time to go!
 - 1) Jacob wanted to go home
 - 2) Situation was getting worse
 - 3) God told him to go (note: “I am the God of Bethel”)

Rachel the Thief

- Rachel stole Laban's household idols
 - They were very important to Laban (30:27 – I have learned by divining / by enhantments)
- Laban could not prove it
- Jacob & co. were three days away when they started – it took Laban 7 days to catch up to them
- God protected Jacob & co. by sending a dream to Laban
- Jacob did not know who had taken the idols, and was willing to have them be killed, but God protected Rachel
- ***It is best to not have gods which can be stolen***
- Mizpah – a negative connotation – more like “God watch over you and keep you honest you dirty dog, because I can't do it”

Wrestling Match

Genesis 32



Jacob is Afraid of Esau

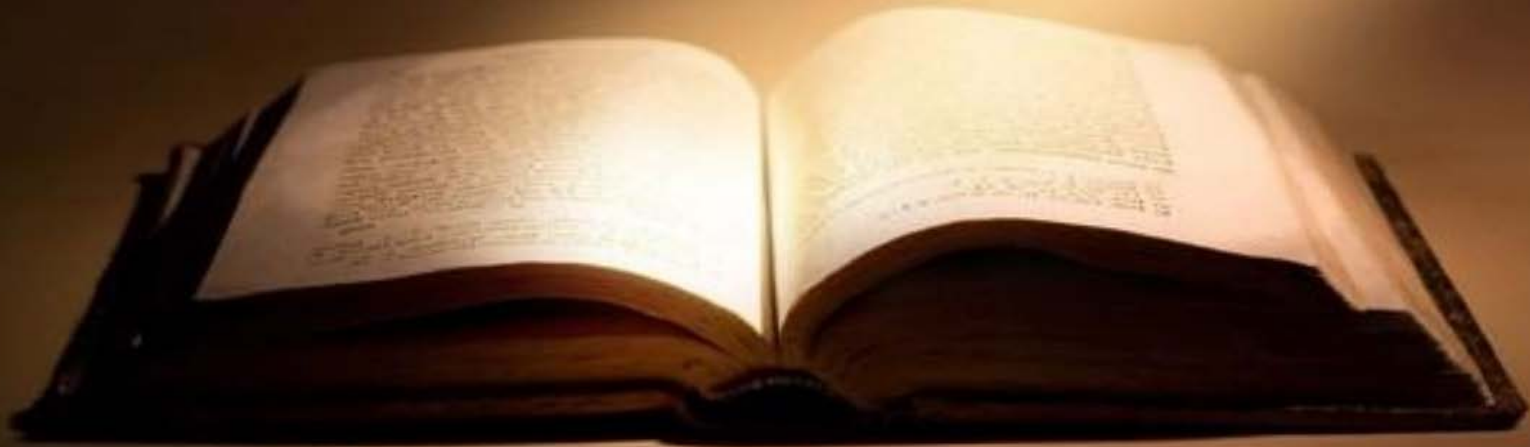
- Sent messengers ahead...
 - Esau comes with 400 men!
- Jacob divided his people and flocks into 2 – i.e. he took what precautions he thought he could
- In his fear, Jacob reminds God of His promise
 - Actually a great thing to do! Not that God needs reminding, but it reminds US
- Jacob prepares a huge set of gifts for Esau

Wrestling Match

- Jacob sent his family and stuff on ahead and was left alone
- Wrestled with “a Man” all night (Christophony or angel?)
 - God cripples him – removes any hope of prevailing in the flesh – he could no longer flee
 - Weeping, he pleads to be blessed (Hosea 12)
- New name – Israel (“Governed by God”)
 - HOWEVER, the name is not consistently used – Jacob still struggles with his flesh

Brothers Reunited

Genesis 33

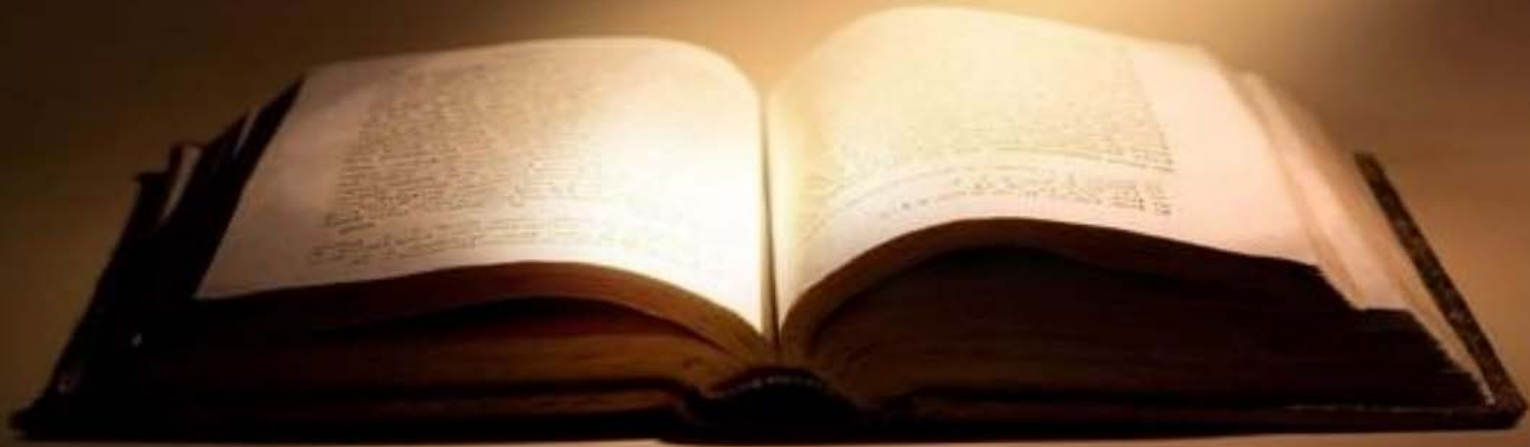


The Meeting

- Esau came with 400 men
- Jacob went in front of his family at this point
- Limping and bowing toward his brother
 - It is possible that this changed Esau's heart and intentions
- Esau went to Seir, Jacob went the other way to Shechem
- Probably was in the area for 10 years or so – bought land, settled down, Dinah his daughter grew up
- Erected an altar called “God, the God of Israel”

Shechem

Genesis 34



Drastic Consequences

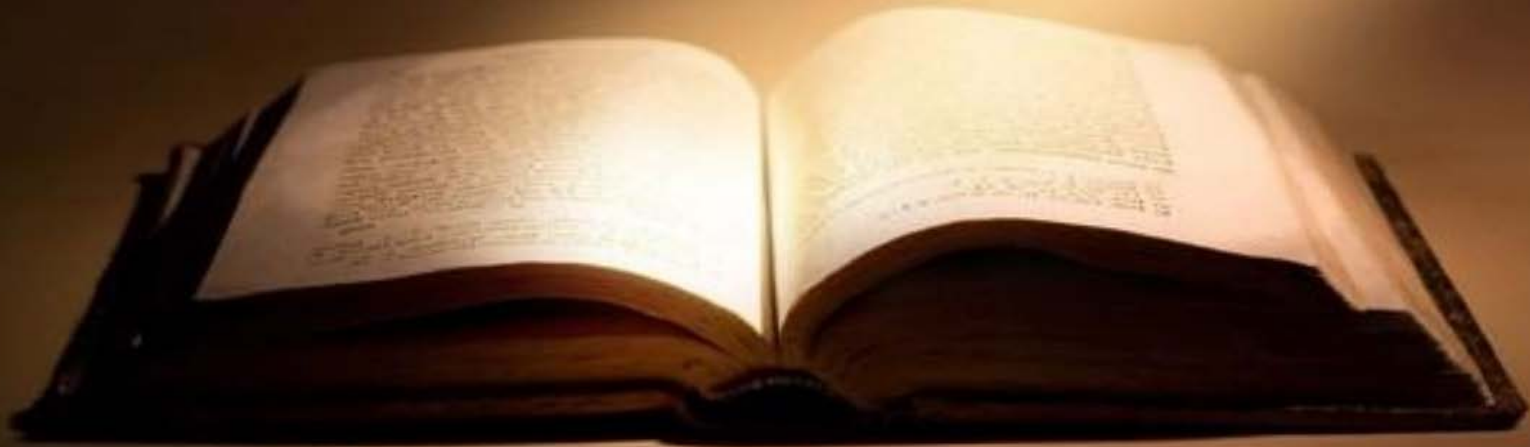
- Shechem raped Jacob's daughter and asked to marry her
- He tried to be honorable after and suggested intermarriage and peace
- Jacob's sons told him to circumcise his men
- On the third day Simeon and Levi killed them
- The sons took all the possessions, wives, and children of the slain
- Jacob was not upset about the slaughter as much as how it affected his political situation

Lineage of the Messiah

- The Messiah comes through Israel... Which son? Judah. But Judah was the 4th son – why not the firstborn, Reuben? Or the second and third, Simeon and Levi?
- Reuben lost the birthright because of sleeping with his father's concubine
- Simeon and Levi forfeit their rights because of this incident with Dinah.

New Name and Place

Genesis 35

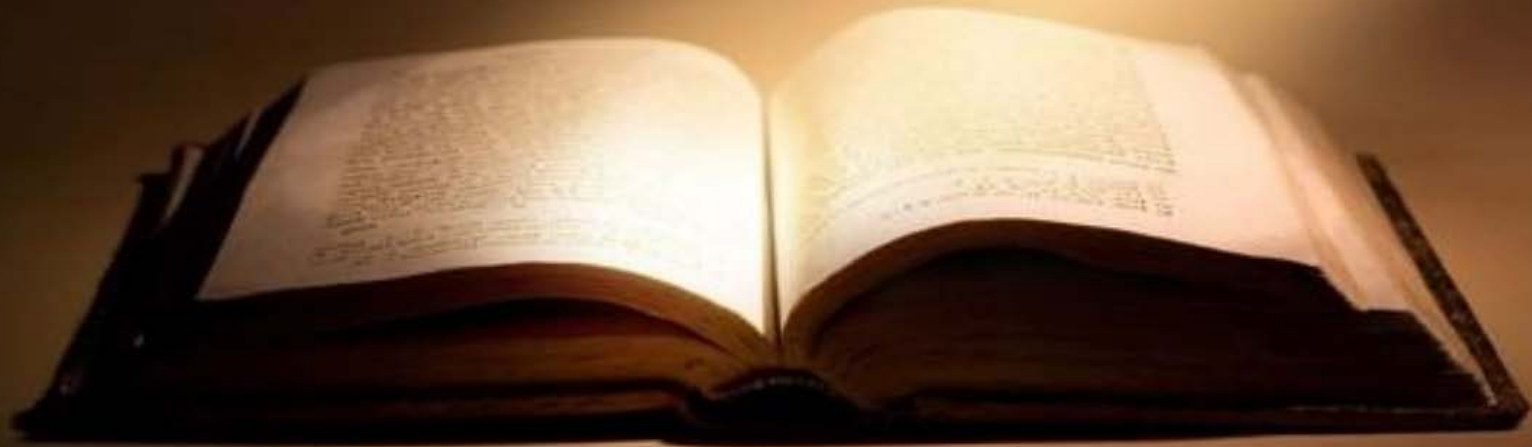


Finally Bethel

- God told Jacob to go to Bethel
- A time of dedication
 - Genesis 35:2-3 And Jacob said to his household and to all who *were* with him, "Put away the foreign gods that *are* among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. 3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."
- God reconfirmed Jacob's new name – Israel
- Rachel dies in childbirth – Benoni: "the son of my sorrow"
Benjamin: "son of the right hand"
- Isaac dies and Esau and Jacob bury him

Generations of Esau

Genesis 36



Generations of Esau

- Genealogy given for completeness. This is history, not fable
- The Edomites (Amalakites) were descendants of Esau, and were the first people that the children of Israel fought as they came out of Egypt.
- Possibility – this might be the time for the book of Job:
 - **Genesis 36:10-11** These *were* the names of Esau's sons: **Eliphaz** the son of Adah the wife of Esau, and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau. 11 And the sons of Eliphaz were **Teman**, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz. [emphasis added]
 - **Genesis 36:33** And when Bela died, **Jobab** the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place. [emphasis added]
 - **Job 2:11** Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place— **Eliphaz the Temanite**, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him. [emphasis added]

Edomites

- Numbers 20 – They refuse to let Israel cross their land
- 1 Samuel 14:47 – Saul has to fight them
- 2 Chronicles 25 – they had become idol worshippers
- Book of Obadiah deals with destruction of Edom
- Their capital for a time was Petra
- Ammon, Moab, and Edom (modern Jordan) – not under Antichrist.
- Herod was an Edomite
- Prophecy of Balaam
 - **Numbers 24:17-19** "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. 18 And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, While Israel does valiantly. 19 Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, And destroy the remains of the city."