

Genesis 27:46-28:22 - “We Just Don’t Quite Get it, but We’re all Shook Up!”

Let’s consider the events of the last section of chapter 27 and all of 28 in the light of the title that’s been given to this week.

1. Isaac (vs. 33) literally got “all shook up.” What did we speculate to be the source of Isaac’s fear and trembling?
2. Esau was also shaken up. With what two emotions was he shaking?
3. Rebekah’s whole world got shaken up. How did she get shaken as this chapter ends and the next one begins?
4. Jacob had a good scare but he really gets shaken up in the middle of the night, probably the second night, of his journey?
5. How does Rebekah continue to trick or manipulate Isaac as this chapter ends?
6. What are some possible reasons why Rebekah didn’t just send Jacob away without tricking Isaac into sending him away?
7. What are some possible reasons that Isaac doesn’t confront, reprimand, fuss at or even mention to Jacob his recent lies and deceit?
8. Notice the difference in the blessings that Isaac gives Jacob this time:

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| God give you the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth and plenty of corn (wheat) and wine let people serve you and nations bow down to you your mother’s sons bow down to you everyone who curses you is cursed and everyone who blesses you is blessed | God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply, that you may be a multitude of people and give you the blessing of Abraham to you and your seed with you; that you may inherit the land where you are a stranger |
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9. How do the following terms help connect the different sections of the book:
 - a. everyone who curses you is cursed and everyone who blesses you is blessed
 - b. be fruitful and multiply
 - c. be a multitude of people
 - d. your seed
 - e. inherit the land where you are a stranger
10. Isaac has clearly been shaken up into remembering parts of the covenant that he neglected before, but what important part of the covenant, the most important part, has he forgotten that God gives to Jacob in his dream of chapter 28?
11. In addition to being “all shook up,” our three players also seem to just not quite get something in this chapter. Name three ways (hint: two of which we’ve already mentioned) that Isaac just doesn’t quite get it:

12. How does Esau's slow realization of having not married well and his solution to win back his father's favor show that he just doesn't quite get what's going on?
13. Here's the biggie! Consider Jacob's dream and his initial exclamation and subsequent vow. How do both show that he doesn't quite comprehend Who he's dealing (or attempting to deal) with?
 - a) initial exclamation - "This is the very house of God, the gate of heaven!"
 - b) subsequent vow - "If God will.....then I will...."
14. We might could excuse Jacob's incomplete realization of the nature and extent of God since he lived before the Bible was even written, but do we often act under the same misperceptions?
15. How do we live or might we live as if we believed that God only lives at church?
16. How might we live or act differently if we were more aware of the presence of God?
17. How might our Sundays be different if we actually believed and were constantly aware of the fact that God is always there even during the week?
18. What sort of deals or bargains might we try to make with God?
19. What has Jacob done to deserve the special blessings and favor of God?
20. We like to think that we're in charge of our own destiny and that how life turns out depends on us and our actions, which is the general theme of Proverbs and much of the Psalms, but Paul uses the favoring of Jacob over Esau as an example of God's election, providence and perhaps even the limited predestination as accepted by John Wesley.
 - a. Consider the following passage: Romans 9:10-21. For you deep thinkers, how does this sound different from our usual idea of free will and open-ended invitation of salvation?
21. What have we done to deserve the special blessings and favor of God?
22. Then why do we often act like we're better than somebody else?
23. We should an advantage over Jacob since we now have the complete revelation of God and not just the beginning fragments that he'd learned. How might his seeming surprise that God was with him have been different if he'd known the following passages:
 - a. prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the temple - I Kings 8:27
 - b. Psalm 139:1-16
 - c. Isaiah 57:15
24. on the other hand, while we should have more of an idea of the omnipresence of God and of God living within us, how might this knowledge make us lose sight of the holiness and unapproach-ability of God?
25. What are the dangers of forgetting that God is also holy and just and righteous and can't look upon sin or excuse any imperfections?
26. Finally, Jacob's ladder probably wasn't a ladder like we think of a ladder. While they had ladders like we do, the term used here is more of a staircase (Tower of Babel) or a steplike entrance to a city on a hill (the Ladder of Tyre, the Ladder of Ptomelais), which is your means of access to either the city or the god or temple at the top of the tower. Consider this in light of John 1:48-51.

The Number 72

The ancients say that Jacob's Ladder had 72 steps. The number 72 denotes, Celestial Council, Fullness of the Nature (Name) of God and Resurrection. According to Hebrew history, each step on the Ladder represented a name of God. The 72 Names of God. It is called, **The Shem hamphorash**, meaning the unpronounceable name; which has the numerical value of 72. The Tetragramation (YHWH or YHVH) with all 7 or 10 of the Hebrew vowels.

This name was too sacred to be written and could only be spoken by few. The high priest on the Day of Atonement used this name to supernaturally transport from the Holy Place to the Holy of Holies. He was not limited by the 18 inches thick veil that hung in front of him. The prophetic Levitical Choir chanted the **YHWH** with the Sacred vowels to bring destruction on their enemies during warfare. See 2 Chron. 20 And the king also had access to this name.

Jacob's Ladder is a revelation of the most mysterious nature of God within man, the heights and depths of ascending and descending. Jesus Himself said that He is that Ladder. He is the Original Blueprint of biological manifestation of God's DNA. John 1:51

In Numbers 11 we find that 70 men were called and anointed with the spirit of prophecy to lead the church in the wilderness. They were not led by human intellect, but by the spirit of prophecy. The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus Christ. Rev. 19:10 Aaron and Moses, plus the 70. (2 + 70= 72). John the Baptist is preaching, preparing the way for Messiah. "And after these things the Lord appointed other 70 also..." Luke 10:1

John the Baptist and Jesus, plus 70 others. (2 + 70= 72). This is the New Testament Spiritual Sandhedrin (Council), showing the way back to Divine manifestation in human form. The literal Sandhedrin made up of mostly Saducees, consisted of 2 clerks and 70 priest, 72. This was the Supreme Court of Israel. Most of the times only 71 were counting, so that when deliberating there would be an uneven number to prevent a hung jury.