

## THE PROPAGATOR: JACOB

# "HOW GOD SAVED JACOB"

**TEXT:** *Gen.28* (Please read the Scripture verses as you go through this lesson or you will miss the most important applications to your life.)

**INTRO.:** A. Jacob is one of the most understandable & most human people in the Bible. We have no trouble identifying w/him.

B. Jacob's story from his salvation to his subduing to his separation to his sanctification is spread out over the next 20-30 yrs. It is not only Jacob's story, but our story as well.

**I. HOW GOD SAVED JACOB: 28:1-22** (Read the entire passage at this point. Then refer back to the noted verses as they appear)

A. Jacob's Departure: **v.1-9**

**NOTE:** Esau had vowed to get his brother after being defrauded. Things got uncomfortable for Jacob. Esau's position had become "We'll bury Father first, then I'll bury you, Jacob!"

1. Its immense importance: **v.1-4**

**NOTE:** Isaac seems to have been frightened out of his carnality by the preceding events. He summons Jacob & gives him instructions regarding the future.

a. Jacob's word of instruction regarding a wife: **v.1,2**

**ILLUS.:** Esau had already disgraced himself & his parents by marrying pagans. Jacob must not repeat this mistake.

b. Jacob's word of inspiration regarding worship: **v.3,4**

- 1) The truth of a productive life. **v.3**
- 2) The trust of a patriarchal line. **v.4a**
- 3) The title of the promised land. **v.4b**

2. Its immediate impact: **v.5-9**

- a. Esau realizes that Isaac had sent Jacob away, not because on his threats but because of his fear of the Caananite women.
- b. God's blessing was on Jacob, so he would be providentially protected.
- c. Esau decides on a purely fleshly plan to "fix things w/his dad" i.e., take another wife.
- d. Esau decided to add a little religious gloss to the outside of his otherwise carnal life.
- e. But God had long since placed Ishmael & his kin on the shelf.

B. Jacob's Dream: **v.10-17**

**NOTE:** There seem to be 3 stages in Jacob's conversion.

1. The far country: **v.10,11**
2. The fresh covenant: **v.12-15**

a. What God proved to Jacob:

**ILLUS.:** A young man told his girl friend "I dreamed about you last nite." "What did you dream?" He replied: "I dreamed I proposed to you. I wonder what that means?" She said: "That's simple. It means you have more sense when you are asleep than when you are awake."

This night Jacob had more sense when he was asleep than when he was awake. He learned that his father's God & his grandfather's God could become his God!

He also learned that there was a place called heaven & that it was not only an actual place, but an accessible place.

Centuries later Jesus identified Jacob's ladder as Himself!

**Jn.1:51** *And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.*

b. What God promised to Jacob: **v.13-15**

**NOTE:** God spoke to him about the Lord, the land & his life!

3. The firm conviction: **v.16,17**

a. Compelled to leave his father's house, Jacob found that God was offering to him, His house!

b. Jacob was saved from this moment on.

C. Jacob's Decision: **v.18-22**

1. Jacob acted promptly: **v.18a**

2. Jacob acted purposefully: **v.18b-19**

3. Jacob acted practically: **v.20-22**

**CONCL.:** By the way, is this the way **you** were saved? No doubt the Lord used a series of events, etc. to get you to that place, but just as with human birth it is the actual **birth date**, not the process, that brings you into true life. Do YOU remember a time and place in YOUR LIFE when this happened to you?!