

Genesis Chapter 28 Commentary

1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.

We see that Isaac has called Jacob into his presence. We notice that Isaac does not say anything about Jacob deceiving him and getting the blessing of firstborn. We notice that Isaac tells Jacob who he should marry, which is what will happen.

Remember, God commanded the children of Israel to not marry unbelievers and people of other nations. We are given the same instruction in: ***2Co 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*** The point being in both cases, we are not to merge idolatry and godliness.

3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

Apparently, Isaac is convinced that the firstborn birthright blessing is indeed to have gone to Jacob. How can we tell? In verse 3 Isaac continues to add to the blessing bestowed upon Jacob. We shall see this blessing fulfilled in Jacob's life as we follow on in scripture. We know that when Jacob went into Egypt he was numbered at 70 souls. We know that when Israel was brought out of Egypt there was a vast multitude.

We see this blessing fulfilled, in our lives today, with the establishment of the church salvation by grace, and the engrafting of the Gentiles into this church.

We see the eternal fulfillment of this blessing in: ***Re 7:9-10; 9 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."***

4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham. 5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

Let's notice first; Jacob is indeed receiving the blessing of God given to Abraham, renewed to Isaac, and now renewed to Jacob. By this we understand; Isaac is now satisfied with Jacob having the right of firstborn, and the blessing that accompanies that right.

6 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; 7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram; 8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; 9 Then

went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.

We find Esau adding to his rebellion against his parents, and against God; by going to Ishmael and marrying another wife, to add to the two Hittite wives he already has, seen in: **Ge 26:34 "And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:"** Remember; Ishmael is the son of Abraham by the handmaid Hagar. God told Abraham to send Ishmael away because he was not the promised seed. The promised seed was Isaac.

10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. 16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

"and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven:" Here we have a prophetic picture of the incarnation of Jesus the Christ. What do you mean? The means to get to heaven was established on earth through Christ incarnate. It is a picture of the church that Jesus established on earth, which is a picture of Christ in you, and the means by which you shall reach the eternal heaven and abide that Christ has gone to prepare for us. In other words; when we see Jesus we see the way into eternity in heaven.

We see in these verses; God affirms to Jacob that he is indeed the recipient of the blessing of promise of God. Heretofore, Jacob has not done any works that would afford him this blessing. Did you notice the surety of this promise of blessings? **"for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."** We have a similar promise from God, seen in: **Heb 13:5-6; 5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."**

God tells Jacob of the things that God is going to do for, and through him. God did not make this promise contingent upon Jacob doing anything. This perfectly demonstrates; that salvation by the grace of God is absolutely free. It is not dependent on any action of the individual.

We, like Jacob, inherited these blessing from God through no action of our own. Which reminds us today; we were dead and alienated toward God when he chose to bless us. God chose to save us, unto himself, when we were dead in trespasses and in sin. Praise the Lord for salvation by the grace of God.

17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Back in verse 12 we saw that there was a ladder, in Jacob's dream, that reached unto heaven, with God at the top of it. Here, we see that Jacob makes a prophetic proclamation of this being the gate of heaven. How is it prophetic? Well, what is a ladder? It is a means by which we can ascend to something that is too high for us to reach otherwise. Eternal salvation is something we cannot attain, without some means to be taken to a higher elevation, than we can attain in nature.

When we get to New Testament scripture; we find that Christ is the door. A door and a gate serve the same function to keep something in or out. Gate's definition is; *a door*. In today's vernacular, we would use the word door, as it pertains to an entrance into a building, such as a house. We would use gate as an entrance into a field or a yard. Looking at these definitions; we see a picture; when we are born again we are through the gate, here in this world which is a field, and we are made able to enter into the green pastures, by God's free grace. Christ is the door by which we are made able to enter into the eternal home in heaven. Christ gives us entrance into the church here on earth and into the eternal heaven as seen in: ***Joh 10:7-9; 7 "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."***

18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

"and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it." We glean here a prophetic picture of how the church of Salvation by Grace will be established, which is revealed in the New Testament in: ***Mt 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*** The New Testament church is established upon the rock, Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God. Jacob poured oil on this rock upon which he named his rock the house of God, and Christ has sent the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon the church he established, the house of God.

Bethel means; *house of God*. It is the prophetic promise of the Old Testament church. The word "church" is not mentioned in scripture until the New Testament, where Jesus declares that he shall build the church. ***Mt 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*** However, the scripture declares that there was a church in the Old Testament, seen in: ***Ac 7:38 "This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:"***

Thus we see; church (Bethel means; *house of God*) in Old and New Testaments. The law service was that out of which came the church and is today the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, seen in: ***Ga 3:24-25; 24 "Wherfore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."***

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

We see the conniving Jacob at work, how? God has just told Jacob what he is going to do. Jacob is now trying to barter with God. He is trying to make God be obligated to him on his own terms. How often do we do the same thing in our own lives? We try to bring God down to our own human level and barter with him. God has given us his promises of what he is going to do, and he will do just that. However, as we shall see, God is going to let Jacob go his own way, until it is time for him to return. We shall see that Jacob will do much suffering on his journey. God does the same thing with us here in time.

22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Stone means; *to build*. Pillar means; *something stationed*. Now, we more clearly see the prophetic picture, of the coming Messiah, as we look at the definition of these two words. How? What did Christ establish upon the earth that will ascend into the eternal heaven? The church? What does this have to do with the definition of stone and pillar?

To build a building the first thing you must do is establish a corner and put a foundation in place. Then, all the building is aligned off that corner. This is what the scripture teaches us in; **Mt 21:42 "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"**

We know that the corner stone is Christ because we are told this in; **Eph 2:13-22; 13 "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."** The religious leaders of the Jews missed this marvelous revelation, which we have in the grace of God, seeing Christ as the corner stone. Those same religious leaders rejected Christ. Christ established the church Christ upon the revelation of himself, "**upon this rock I will build my church.**" Jesus Christ is the sure foundation stone, seen in: **1Co 3:11 "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."**

Why is this marvelous in our sight? Because, as it was revealed to Jacob in a dream, so it is revealed to us through the preaching of the gospel of Christ by the moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Praise the Lord for the revelation of the Chief Corner Stone, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!