

# Jacob Relocates *to Paddan Aram*

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# What We Will Learn

- Jacob's departure from Canaan
  - Esau threatens Jacob
  - Rebekah uses selective persuasion to convince Isaac to send Jacob to Paddan Aram
- Jacob's Covenant with God at Bethel
- Jacob meets Rachel
- Genesis 27, 28, and 29

# Rebekah Advises Jacob to Leave Canaan

- Esau believed Jacob stole his blessing
- He threatened to kill Jacob
- Rebekah advised Jacob to flee to her brother Laban in Haran
- Genesis 27:41–45

# Rebekah Persuades Isaac

## Genesis 27:46 & 28:1–5

- Rebekah told Isaac she was concerned Jacob might marry from Canaan
- Isaac agreed and told Jacob
  - Do not marry a Canaanite woman
  - Go to Paddan Aram
  - Marry from among the daughters of Laban
- He blessed Jacob and sent him off to Paddan Aram

# Discussion Points

## Did Jacob Steal Blessing?

- Jacob did not steal blessing from Esau
- Blessing was indeed intended for Jacob
- Isaac believed blessing was for Esau and intended to confer it on him
- Rebekah recognized the error
- Redirected (deceived) Isaac to bless Jacob

# Discussion Points

## Rebekah-Isaac Interaction

- Rebekah respected Isaac's authority to decide if Jacob should leave
- She used selective persuasion to influence Isaac's decision
- Isaac exercised authority as head of household
- Both Rebekah and Isaac were satisfied

# The Covenant at Bethel

- Jacob stopped at Luz for the night
- God appeared to him in a dream
- God promised Jacob
  - Ownership of the land
  - Innumerable descendants
  - Blessing to all people through his offspring
  - Protection everywhere
- Genesis 28:10–12 & 13–15

# The Covenant at Bethel cont'd

- Jacob vowed
- If God would provide my basic needs
- Food, clothing, shelter, protection
- Then the Lord will be my God
- I will setup God's house at this location
- Of all that you give me I will give you a tenth
- Genesis 28:16-22



# Discussion Points

## God's Promise to Jacob

- Confirms God's promise to Abraham propagated through Isaac to Jacob
  - Genesis 12:2–3 (God to Abraham)
  - Genesis 26:2–4 (God to Isaac)
- For Jacob
- Jacob's offspring
- All humanity through Jacob's offspring

# Discussion Points

## Jacob's Vow

- Asked God to provide for five basic needs
- Food and drink, clothing, shelter, protection
- Promised to worship God and give Him one-tenth of everything
  - On behalf of himself
  - His offspring
  - All humanity:  
Beneficiaries of God's promise to Jacob

# Jacob Arrives in Paddan Aram Meets Rachel

- Jacob arrived at a gathering place for shepherds
- He confirmed through the shepherds that he was close to his destination
- Rachel arrived with her father's sheep and was introduced to Jacob
- Genesis 29:1–6

# Jacob Introduces Himself

- Jacob introduced himself as a relative of Rachel's father
- He watered Rachel's sheep
- Rachel ran home and informed her father
- Laban met Jacob and took him to his house
- Genesis 29:7–14

# Concluding Remarks

- Illustrates two functions of family structure
- Cradle for self determination
  - Who and from where
  - Jacob identified Laban as Nahor's grandson
  - Identified himself as Laban's relative
  - He was welcomed and offered a home
- Propagation of Jacob's covenant with God to future generations of all people