

Patriarchs Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Six: Jacob the Deceiver – Genesis 27-31

Read Genesis 27:1-40.

- 1) Jacob and his parents had two character flaws that resulted in the surprising drama of Chapter 27. What were these flaws? See Genesis 25:26, 25:28, 27:35-36 and any text notes in your Bible that clarify translation or word meaning (text notes differ from the commentary in study Bibles).

- 2) What information did Rebekah have (see 25:23) that might have influenced her attitude and her behavior in chapter 27?

- 3) Read Romans 9:10-13. Consider the fact that God's foreordained will, with regard to the twins, was fulfilled through the channel of their parents' sinful manipulation. Was God *forced* to choose Jacob over Esau, on the basis of what He knew Rebekah and Jacob would do? Did He *tempt* Rebekah and Jacob to act deceitfully in order that His will would be accomplished (Jacob would inherit his father's position and blessings)? If not, how should we understand the relationship between God's will and the sin of these family members? See Romans 9:11, 16, 18, 21, and James 1:13.

Read Genesis 27:41-28:22.

- 4) Was Rebekah's complaint over the possibility of Jacob taking a wife from the local Hittites legitimate, or was it an excuse to serve another purpose? Explain your answer. See Genesis 26:34-35.

- 11) According to the genealogy in Matthew 1, which son of Jacob had the privilege of being the ancestor of Christ? Who was his mother? Is this surprising? Why or why not?
- 12) The Bible is very honest about the faults of its heroes. Imagine the on-going tension in Jacob's household. Which personal failure or weakness will you trust God to redeem? (The question assumes that you have already confessed and repented of any sin that was involved.)

Read Genesis 30:25-31:55.

- 13) From Genesis 30:25-31:21, explain *in general terms* the reasons given for the increase of Jacob's flocks.
- 14) What mutual agreement did Jacob and Laban finally reach? Cite verses to support your answer.
- 15) God watched over Jacob, as promised (Genesis 28:15). How does it comfort you to know that God is watching over you today, just as He has promised (Psalm 1:6, 121:3-8)? Be specific to your own circumstances.