Berwyn Church of Christ: Genesis Study

Date: November, 18 2026	
Connecting Scriptures/Thoughts	***Genesis 28&29***
"You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan." (verse 1) Isaac's words to Jacob nearly identically echo those of Abraham to his servant in selecting a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:3-4). V3 is a little different than "a great nation" (Genesis 12:2) or to multiply Isaac's "descendants as the stars of heaven" (Genesis 26:4) A company of peoples- similar to Ecclesia which is????? Assembly devoted to religious purposes. V5 sent to Abraham's people, what could possibly go wrong? How long will Jacob wind up staying there? V6- 9 Esau knows Jacob has been blessed and that he is being obedient to his father Jacob...obeyed his father and his mother..." (verse 7)and now all of the sudden Esau wants to marry within the clan. Self serving, "Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord." (Colossians 3:20) "My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother." (Proverbs 6:20) The word Ladder listed here is more like a stairway. Jacob received the blessing but here God confirms it to him in this vision. In reference to Genesis 28:12, Jesus declared to Nathaniel in John 1:51 that He is the stairway to heaven, inserting himself in the place of the ladder of Jacob's dream.	Genesis 28 [1] Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. [2] Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. [3] God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. [4] May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!" [5] Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.[6] Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women," [7] and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. [8] So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, [9] Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.[10] Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. [11] And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. [12] And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! [13] And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. [14] Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. [15] Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will

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Joshua 24:27

Genesis 31:45-48

You make the call: self serving conditional following of God, or reckoning that God is going to take care of him and understanding he was chosen?

Jacob had left his father's house penniless, with only his staff in his hand (Genesis 32:10), and at Bethel he vows to give the Lord a tenth of his future possessions if He delivers him back to his home in safety and prosperity. But the text does not reveal how or to whom this offering would be made.

Well scene, what does this remind you of?

He said to them, “Is it well with him?” They said, “It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!”

Jacob helps Rachel and even gives her a kiss when he tells her that he was her father’s kinsman.

V 15 Jacob is welcomed in by Laban
Received and told that a relative should not work for free.

Jacob requests Rachel’s hand in marriage as payment. Laban knows how smitten he is makes the promise for 7 years of work!

not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” [16] Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” [17] And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” [18] So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. [19] He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. [20] Then Jacob made 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 clothing to wear, [21] so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, [22] and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.” (ESV)

Genesis 29
[1] Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. [2] As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well’s mouth was large, [3] and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.[4] Jacob said to them, “My brothers, where do you come from?” They said, “We are from Haran.” [5] He said to them, “Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?” They said, “We know him.” [6] He said to them, “Is it well with him?” They said, “It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!” [7] He said, “Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them.” [8] But they said, “We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep.”[9] While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was a shepherdess. [10] Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother’s brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother’s brother, Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well’s mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother’s brother. [11] Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. [12] And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father’s kinsman, and that he was Rebekah’s son, and she ran and told her father.

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However, Laban tricks Jacob with Leah, his elder daughter. On what was to be their wedding, Laban passes it off as tradition.(why is this excuse not acceptable)? Jacob works another 7 years to get Rachel his real desire. V30 is important. What do we learn about how God expects us to treat others? V31 sometimes God intervenes directly(Gave Leah Children) Leah bore three sons, each with a name and declaration of pain and desperation. Hoping that they would bring Jacob to love her. Leah speaks to us because she made a choice. Life is not fair. Bad things happen to good people. But Leah had a choice be bitter or be better, to go on or go under. When the fourth son came along, she decided to look to God, to see the positive in her situation. She had three sons. Her sister had none. She decided that she would praise the Lord. And so she did. Judah, the son who changed everything for Leah, played a pivotal role in saving the life of his brother Joseph (who was yet to be born). When Joseph's brothers plotted to leave Joseph in a pit to die, Judah persuaded them not to kill him.	[13] As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, [14] and Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month. [15] Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" [16] Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. [17] Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. [18] Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." [19] Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." [20] So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. [21] Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." [22] So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. [23] But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. [24] (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) [25] And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" [26] Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. [27] Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." [28] Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. [29] (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) [30] So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.[31] When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. [32] And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." [33] She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. [34] Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. [35] And she conceived again and bore a son,

	and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing. (ESV)