

WHEN GOD SETS HIS HEART ON YOU

Part # 5

6-12-22

“What is Man, that thou (God) shouldst MAGNIFY HIM? And that thou shouldst SET THINE HEART UPON HIM? And that thou shouldst VISIT HIM EVERY MORNING, and TRY HIM EVERY MOMENT (Job 7:7, 18)?”

“Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts ye double minded” (James 4:8).

God sets his heart on those who sets his heart on God.

Hebrews 11:21 – “By faith Jacob when he was dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh); and worshiped, leaning upon the top of his staff.”

Jacob – Prophetic Faith – Genesis 48 and 49

There were many less than glorious chapters in the life of Jacob, but he is honored as a hero of faith. Nevertheless, his godly character improved with age and he died in a burst of glory and revelation from God.. When he blessed Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, he crossed his hands so that the older son’s blessings fell on Ephraim, the younger. In spite of Joseph’s protests, Jacob insisted that the blessings must stand because this was the order which the Lord had specified. Though Jacob’s physical sight was dim, his spiritual sight was keen. The closing scene of Jacob’s life, finds him worshipping, while leaning on the top of his staff.

The life of Jacob and his experiences; may be viewed from two chief viewpoints: as a picture of the Jewish nation of Israel and as a picture of a believer.

JACOB AND HIS EXPERIENCES, AS A PICTURE OF THE JEWISH NATION OF ISRAEL:

*In Genesis 32:28, God changes Jacob’s name to “Israel”.

*Jacob is the patriarch; that most frequently is referred to the Jewish people. In the Book of Isaiah, the Jewish people are referred as “The House of Jacob” and this phrase is found 9 times in the Book.

*Jacob suffered a determined effort to be robbed of his inheritance, Genesis 27 and so have the Jewish people.

*Jacob valued the blessings of God, but sought it in carnal ways, totally opposed to Faith, Genesis 26:27 and so it is written of the Jews, “For I bear them record that they have A ZEAL OF GOD BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness and going about TO

ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THEMSELVES UNTO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD" (Romans 10:2,3).

*Jacob was exiled from the land as a result of his SINS, Genesis 28:5. So were the Jewish people.

*Jacob spent much of his life as a wandering exile from the land; such has been the history of his descendants.

*Jacob was distinctly the wanderer among the patriarchs, and as such was a type of the wandering Jews.

*Jacob experienced, as such, the SORE CHASTENINGS OF A RIGHTEOUS GOD, so too, with the Jewish people.

There are numerous, more comparisons of Jacob and his life experiences and the nation of Israel.

JACOB AND HIS EXPERIENCES IN LIFE, AS A PICTURE OF THE BELIEVER:

In Abraham we see the truth of "Divine Sovereignty", and the life of Faith; in Isaac "Divine Sonship" and the life of submission; in Jacob, the manifestation of the "Two Natures" and the life of service.

Jacob learned to be a "Servant". Hosea 12:12 says; "And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel (Jacob) served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep."

Genesis 28: 10 – 19 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

Isaac sends Jacob to Paddan-aram, a district of Mesopotamia, so that he find a wife among his mother's people, rather than among the Canaanites (Genesis 28:1-9). Before Jacob commenced his service at Paddan-aram, he first arrived at "Bethel" and spends a night there (Genesis 28:10-19). At Bethel, Jacob had a WONDROUS DREAM IN WHICH HE SAW A "LADDER" or STAIRCASE, EXTENDING FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN. This suggests; the fact that a REAL, UNINTERRUPTED, AND CLOSE COMMUNION WITH GOD IS POSSIBLE.

When Jesus, meets Nathaniel, Jesus makes a reference to this incident, at Bethel and connected it with His Second Coming and His Millennial reign and his close communion with believers (John 1: 47-51). But even now; believers CAN enjoy moment by moment fellowship, with God but it is difficult (Almost impossible) to retain this, ON OUR PART, in this present life.

When Jacob arrived at "Bethel"; Jacob's heart was probably filled with regret for the past, loneliness in the present, and uncertainty about the future but God graciously made a covenant with him, as He had with Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 28 13-15). God promises to Jacob; COMPANIONSHIP – "I am with you"; SAFETY – "I will keep you wherever you go"; GUIDANCE – "and will bring you back to this land"; and PERSONAL GUARANTEE – "I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you".

Conscious, that he had MET GOD THERE; Jacob changes the name of the place from "LUZ" WHICH MEANS "SEPARATION" TO "BETHEL" WHICH MEANS "HOUSE OF GOD".

GOD HAS CALLED US TO “SEPARATE” FROM THIS WORLD, BUT IN LEAVING THIS WORLD, WE ENTER INTO GOD’S “HOUSE”!

Romans 12:1 – “I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (Rational) service”.

Romans 12:2 – “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (By the Word of God), that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

The “Ladder” or “Staircase”, pointed to CHRIS JESUS HIMSELF, the One who spanned the infinite gulf, which separated Heaven from Earth, and who has in His person, provided His own personal WAY, whereby we may DRAW NEAR TO GOD. That the “Ladder” reached from earth to Heaven, tells us of the complete provision; that Divine grace, has made for sinners. Right down to where THE FUGITIVE- JACOB, from his brother’s wrath; THE LADDER CAME, AND RIGHT UP TO GOD HIMSELF THE “LADDER” REACHED!

Prior to Bethel, Jacob had no personal contact with God. Everything up to this point, in Jacob’s life; about God, had come to him “Second-hand”, through others.

Genesis 28: 20 – 22 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

Next, Jacob seems to be BARGAINING WITH GOD. HE WAS ACTUALLY BARGINNING FOR LESS THAN GOD HAD ALREADY PROMISED TO HIM (GENESIS 28:14). “IF”; begins the vow of Jacob to God. Jacob’s faith was not yet strong enough, to take God at His Word; so he had to make his tithe conditional, on God’s performance, of His part of the agreement.

But now, Jacob is ready for “service” and to be a “Servant”. Now, Jacob though not yet “Perfect”, goes forth to do the will of God and to live out, what God has promised him.

Jacob is found to be “FAITHFUL IN SERVICE”. The history of this is found in Genesis, chapters 29, 30, 31.

But Jacob still had the “Two Natures”. The one nature; is to trust God at His word, to fear God, to deal with men fairly and be a man of integrity before God and men. The other nature, to live in fear, not to stand on God’s Word and let circumstances, dictate your actions and speech and to try to “Control” your situations in life and to try to get the better of people, in your dealings, in which you come in contact with.

In Genesis 31: 11- 13; Jacob receives a dream from God, in which “The Angel of the Lord” spoke to him and told him to return back to his home. In route to Canaan, Jacob met a band of ANGELS and called the place “Mahanaim” (Two hosts or double camp) (Genesis 32:2). These two camps of angels; are Jacob’s entourage, from God and could just refer to a double portion or great number of angels. As Jacob neared his home land, he remembered his brother Esau and feared that Esau would still seek revenge, for Jacob’s past actions. First, Jacob sent out messengers, to Esau with greetings and peace. Then when he heard that Esau was coming to meet him, with a band of four hundred men, he was terrified that he divided his family into two companies, so that if the first group was destroyed, the second group could

flee , to safety (Genesis 32:8). Genesis 32: 9 - 12; is Jacob's prayer of distress and was born out of Jacob's desperate sense of need, for divine protection. I am not sure, why Jacob was so terrified, given the fact of God's great provision for Jacob in the past and the band of angels, that God dispatched to him but Jacob's prayer of distress but to Jacob's credit, it shows us two things. First that Jacob based his plea, on the Word of the Lord and claimed the promises of God. Jacob's plea to God was based on the ground of the covenant relationship, which the Lord had established with him and his forefathers, and it was prayed in humility of spirit. It was the first time that Jacob confessed his "Unworthiness of God's mercies and of all the truth" that God had shown him (Genesis 32:10). Jacob had a number of experiences with God, that finally brought him to the point of surrender to God and to helplessness without him. This again brings Jacob, to the place of HIS TWO NATURES; one to serve God and trust in God's Word and depend on God's provision and the other to serve self and depend on your own strength and wisdom. Genesis 32 13- 21; after Jacob's prayer to God, Jacob next thing he does, is to send three successive droves of animals, in three installments, totaling 580 head of animals; as a gift to Esau, hoping to appease him. Jacob's maneuvers, I think, manifested his unbelief or at least a mixture of faith and unbelief. Genesis 32: 22 - 32; Jacob wrestles with God. After sending his immediate family across the stream "Jabbok" (meaning "He will empty"); Jacob spent the night, alone at "Peniel". There "A Man wrestled with him". That "Man" was an angel (Hosea 12:4), "The Angel of Jehovah"; and I believe to be, the Lord Jesus Himself. The Lord put the socket of Jacob's hip out of joint, causing him to walk with a limp, the rest of his life but also to remember, that experience with God. Although Jacob lost the encounter physically, he won a great spiritual victory. He learned to TRIUMPH THROUGH WEAKNESS. EMPTIED OF SELF AND OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS OWN CLEVERNESS, HE CONFESSED THAT HE WAS "JACOB", a "Supplanter" or a "Con man". God then changed his name to "Israel" (Variously translated as, "God rules", One who strives with God", or "A prince of God". Jacob called the name of this place, "Peniel" (Meaning "The Face of God") because he realized that he had seen the face of the Lord and lived. I would like to say that this was the "Absolute defining spiritual moment", in Jacob's (Israel's) life; that completely changed him around but it wasn't. But it did move Jacob's life closer, to the Man of God that he became, at the end of his life.

1 Corinthians 10:11 - "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples (Examples); and they are written FOR OUR ABMONITION, upon whom the ends of the world are come".

1 Corinthians 10:12 - "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL".

Galatians 5:16 and 17 – "This I say then Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: (The two natures) and these are CONTRARY THE ONE TO THE OTHER: that ye CANNOT DO THE THINGS THAT YE WOULD".

Here is the promise to believers:

1 Corinthians 10:13 - "There is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it".

