

1 Jacob bought his brother's birthright

Gen 25:29 Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom. ³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, **selling his birthright to Jacob**

2. Jacob deceived his brother and received the blessings from his father Isaac

Gen 27:6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, ⁷ 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.' ⁸ Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: ⁹ Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. ¹⁰ Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies."

3. Esau's life 【led by his flesh and feelings】

- a) He was planning to kill Jacob after his father's death 【Gen 27:41-42】
- b) His Canaanite wives tormented his mother 【Gen 27 : 46】
- c) He married the daughter of Ishmael, son of Abraham 【Gen 28 : 8-9】

4. Jacob obeyed his parents to look for his wife from his uncle

Gen 28:1 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. ² Go at once to Paddan Aram,^[a] to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. ³ May God Almighty^[b] bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. ⁴ May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham."

5. Jacob had an encounter with the God of Abraham and Isaac

28:10¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it^[a] stood the Lord, and he said: **"I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.**^[b] ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel,^[c] though the city used to be called Luz.²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord^[d] will be my God ²² and^[e] this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

1. Jacob had his first encounter with the Almighty God.
He received the covenant of blessing given to Abraham:
He received God's promise that He would be with him and would never forsake him.
2. Jacob worshiped God.
He began to live a life that acknowledged God as God, rather than relying on his own self-centered thoughts and plans.
3. Jacob responded to God.
Out of gratitude that God walks with him, he resolved to offer a tithe from the Lord's provision.

6. Life of Jacob

He received God's blessing in a human way. He incurred his brother's resentment. He was led to a life on the run. God revealed Himself to Jacob and promised that He would never forsake him, but would always be with him. Jacob worshiped God and began a life of walking with Him.

7 The Life That Seeks First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

Matt 6:32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own

The Kingdom of God:

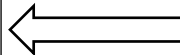
The kingdom ruled by God

God's righteousness: Walking in accordance with God's Word



This world: a world ruled by the devil and filled with carnal desires
One's own righteousness: treating oneself as God, being self-centered
The world's righteousness: conforming to the world's customs and traditions

Rom 10:22 The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it.
No worry



- Filled with hardship.
- No peace; filled with worry.

➔ Let us learn from Jacob's life

1. What are you seeking as you walk this path? What is the focus of your prayers?
 - A) Physical things? Money? Family? Work? Security for the future? Are you focused only on your own needs and the things of this world?
 - B) Mental things? Peace? Freedom from various burdens?
 - C) Spiritual things? Being filled with the Holy Spirit, walking in the Lord's will, the salvation of family and friends, spiritual gifts
2. How was Jacob's life?
Jacob did not know the Almighty God. He also did not fully understand what a blessing entailed. Jacob encountered the Almighty God. He came to know that God was with him and would protect him. He worshiped God as God and resolved to give a tithe of what he had received from God.
3. God's blessings are not limited to a single generation. You and your descendants—both physical & spiritual—will be blessed. God knows the needs of all who follow Him and provides for everything. As a result, those who follow the Lord can live worry-free, peaceful lives. The peace the Lord gives is different from the peace of this world. It is perfect peace. It cannot be bought with money.
- 4 If you accept Jesus as your God and walk according to His Word, He will fulfill all your physical, mental, and spiritual needs. Let us not walk according to money or fleshly desires.

"Neither treasure nor pleasure can make us happy for long. It is the heart that always determines a person's happiness or unhappiness." Robert Burns