

Genesis 28  
“*Personal Promise*”

**~ LET'S PRAY ~**

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: **“Personal Promise.”**

**~ INTRO ~**

OK...

- Remember the big picture at this point in the Bible.

GOD HAS A SPECIFIC PLAN...

- And He's unfolding it... WITH specific characters – “*The Patriarchs:*”

- 1) Abraham
- 2) Isaac
- 3) **Jacob**
- 4) Joseph

- And this is where we pick up today.

**BIG IDEA – THE PROMISE MADE PERSONAL:** (Gen. 28:1-22)

OVERVIEW OF (vv.1-9)

NOW IT'S IMPORTANT...

- To grasp the contemporary issues within this chapter...
  - Because Jacob's decisions... on the road of life...
    - Are just like ours!

WE'VE SEEN A MAN...

- Engage in family drama... pressure, strife, manipulating...
  - The very actions, attitudes, & emotions we wrestle with.

COMMENTATOR'S SAY...

- That Jacob is a great picture of just being human!

AND I THINK HE'S A PERFECT DISPLAY...

- Because his encounter with God leads to change!

Genesis 28  
“Personal Promise”

- And I believe the same thing happens in our lives too.
  - God patiently transforms us thru the trials of life...
  - As we look to Him for help.

**~ STUDY ~**

NOW AS WE BEGIN (CHAPTER 28)...

- Let's come up to speed with what's going on here.

REMEMBER...

- Back in chapter #27...
  - Esau wanted to kill Jacob...
  - But Rebekah (27:41-42) got wind of it.

SO... HERE IN (vv.1-2)...

- We have Isaac (dad) sending Jacob (son) to Uncle Laban.

(vv.3-4)...

- Before Jacob goes... Isaac blesses him...
  - With the family promise that was given to Abraham!

(v.5)

- Then Jacob heads off!

NOW... AS WE READ THIS...

- In a casual environment... all the intensity of emotion is stripped off.

LISTEN... JACOB IS GETTING OUT OF TOWN...

- Under some intense emotions... (he's scared & running)...
  - Because Esau wants to kill him!
- And God is using the situation to shape Jacob.

IS THERE SOMETHING...

- In your life bringing you to your knees right now?

GOD USES...

- Health issues?
  - Financial strains?
  - Housing struggles?

Genesis 28  
“Personal Promise”

- Job needs?
- Family tension?

WHAT’S GOD USING...

- To draw you into a greater relationship with Him?
  - Most likely it’s the very thing you want to run from.
    - The thing you don’t want to talk about!
      - The thing you can’t seem to fix!

(vv.10-11)...

- Beersheba to [[Bethel \(v.19\)](#)] to Haran...
  - A trip of about 450-miles in distance.
    - And God got Jacob alone on the road.

(v.12)...

IN THIS DREAM...

- Jacob sees something similar to a ladder or a stairway.
  - (Hebrew: *Sullam*) which signifies a connection...
    - Between God & man.
- In ([John 1:49-51](#)) NKJV... **Jesus** interprets this dream.
  - Showing He is the link between heaven & earth.

In [Genesis 11](#) at the tower of Babel...

- Man tried to reach the heavens by their own actions...
  - Without the help of God.

As Christians... we recognize this dream of Jacob...

- As representing the Mediator (Jesus Christ) who came to earth...
  - And became the way to reconnect us with God.

**HERE’S THE POINT...**

- Jacob discovers for the first time that God is with him.

A SUPERSTITION IN JACOBS TIME...

- Was that once you left your hometown...
  - You left your god behind as well.
    - And you’re without protection.

JACOB HAD HIS DREAM ON THE FIRST NIGHT...

Genesis 28  
“Personal Promise”

- Of fleeing from Esau...
  - And God says... listen to what I have for you (v.15).
- 1) *With you* = Companionship
- 2) *Will keep you* = Safety
- 3) *Will bring you back* = Guidance
- 4) *Will not leave you* = Personal guarantee

HAVE YOU HAD THAT EXPERIENCE?

- Perhaps you've come to W.C. from another church...
  - Or another part of the country where you've left family behind.
- And now you're struggling to get connected in a new place.

Perhaps you've said in your heart... is God in this place for ME?

LOOK AT (v.16)...

*“The LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”*

(vv.17-19)...

- God had to get Jacob alone before He spoke to him.
  - “Gate” = (John 10:9) NKJV

(vv.20-21)...

- “If” is better translated “Since”

THE APOSTLE PAUL...

- In the book of (Ephesians) takes the first three chapters...
  - To tell how we are:
    - Chosen
    - Redeemed
    - Forgiven
      - All according to His good pleasures.
- Then Paul gives the believers response...
  - Which is the believer's walk & service.

JACOB GIVES US A FORESHADOWING...

- By saying since God has done this!!!

Genesis 28  
“*Personal Promise*”

AND THIS PATTERN IS REPEATED...

- Throughout the New Testament.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE...

- Paul in the book of (Romans)...
  - 11-chapters to discuss the problem of sin...
    - The declaration of Justification...
    - The sanctification process...
    - And the sovereignty of God...
      - Before he mentions the response of our service.

~ IN CLOSING ~

HOW DO YOU NEEDS TO RESPOND TO GOD TONIGHT?

- What is the step of faith that is before you?