**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Twenty Six**

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**Jacob moves back to the Promised Land. His name is changed to Israel. Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin. God’s nature. Jesus lived a life without sin as a man, not as God. True believers in Christ will perform the same miracles Jesus performed but more of them. Isaac dies at the age of 180 years.**

In our last lesson on the book of Genesis, God had just called Jacob to go back to Canaan, the Promised Land which God had promised to Abraham and Isaac and all their descendants.

Jacob had spent nearly thirty years near the city of Haran, in modern day Syria, living among his relatives. He married his uncle’s two daughters, Leah and Rachel and had several children through them and their handmaidens.

We are told, in Genesis chapter 35, that Jacob’s mother’s servant had just died and she was buried at Bethel, where God had told Jacob to go and take his family with him. Right after that God blessed Jacob again and spoke to him.

**Genesis 35:9-15 (NLT)**

**9**Now that Jacob had returned from Paddan-aram, God appeared to him again at Bethel. God blessed him, **10**saying, “Your name is Jacob, but you will not be called Jacob any longer. From now on your name will be Israel.”So God renamed him Israel.

**11**Then God said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Be fruitful and multiply. You will become a great nation, even many nations. Kings will be among your descendants! **12**And I will give you the land I once gave to Abraham and Isaac. Yes, I will give it to you and your descendants after you.” **13**Then God went up from the place where he had spoken to Jacob.

**14**Jacob set up a stone pillar to mark the place where God had spoken to him. Then he poured wine over it as an offering to God and anointed the pillar with olive oil. **15**And Jacob named the place Bethel (which means “house of God”), because God had spoken to him there.

Do you remember how, when Esau and Jacob, twins, were born? Esau was born first and as he came out, Jacob was holding onto Esau’s heel. Jacob means “heel grabber.” We know in the Old Testament, people’s names meant something and usually, their name was the story of their life! God changed Jacob’s name to Israel which means, “God fights.”

So many Christians think of God as the loving God that He is but they forget or just do not know that He is a RIGHTEOUS GOD and can be very destructive to sin and those who oppose Him.

**Hebrews 10:31 (ESV)**

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We are told that God “hated” Esau. The word hate, used in that scripture means “an UTTER HATRED.” God hates the devil and God hates sin!

**Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)**

These six *things* the Lord hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: 17A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

All of the things listed here, that God hates, are things that people do! This proverb even tells us that, at least two of them involve people He hates when they do certain things (A FALSE WITNESS who speaks lies and ONE who sows discord.)

Let us be careful NOT to fall into these sins!

There was a time in history when God created hell. GOD DID NOT CREATE HELL FOR HUMANS!

**Matthew 25:41 (ESV)**

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

It was NEVER God’s intention for ANYONE to go to hell. What God originally intended was for Adam and Eve to live forever in the Garden on this earth and for them to have offspring that would enjoy this world forever with them.

We know the story of how Adam and Eve, when tempted to sin, fell into the sin and by that, all of mankind was put under the authority of Satan. Satan became the “god of this world”

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)**

**4**Satan, who is the **god of this world**, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

When God created Adam, He gave him complete dominion over this earth and everything in it. Adam was the “god of this world.” You may even remember the story in the book of Genesis when Adam named all of the animals.

**Genesis 2:20 (ESV)**

The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Because Adam, the “god of this world” at that time, knowing fully well that it was a sin to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, gave away his dominion to Satan. Because of that, every human being is born with sin in their lives. God loves us so much that He had to make a way for man to be forgiven of his sin so that he would not be condemned to an eternity with Satan and his angels in hell forever. God devised the plan to send Christ to live a sin completely without sin, to pay the price for mankind’s sin. Jesus had to do this completely as a man and NOT as God!

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)**

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

**Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV)**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied himself**, by **taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men**. And **being found in human form**, he **humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross**.

Many times, in this class, I have repeated the old saying, **“In the Essentials Unity; in the NonEssentials Liberty!”**

Certain things, such as the virgin birth of Christ, the death, burial and resurrection of Christ are ESSENTIAL doctrines. In other words, we MUST believe these things to be able to fellowship with other believers. Things such as, did Jesus dies spiritually, is baptism by immersion or sprinkling, believing in or not believing in the spiritual gifts, while they are certainly important topics, are nonessentials. We can differ in our opinions but still have fellowship with one another.

The fact that Jesus stripped Himself of any of His deity is an essential doctrine of Christ! You see, if Jesus would have defeated sin as God, which He is, it would have been easy. But you see, Jesus HAD to defeat sin ONLY as a man and that He did!

**1 John 4:1-3 (ESV)**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: **every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.** This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

You would not believe how many Christians and even ministers have opposed me on this yet the Bible is VERY CLEAR that Jesus completely stripped off His deity and lived this life COMPLETELY as a man and defeated sin as a man, NOT GOD!

The only time we see Jesus, while He is on earth, in His deity is at the transfiguration. (Mark 9:2-9).

You may ask, “How did Jesus perform all those miracles if He was just a man and not God?” That is a very good question.

You will remember when Jesus was twelve years old; his family went back to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Joseph and Mary got to looking for Jesus and when they finally went back to the temple in Jerusalem, Jesus was teaching the priests!

**Luke 2:41-52 (NLT)**

**41**Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.**42**When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. **43**After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn’t miss him at first, **44**because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn’t show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. **45**When they couldn’t find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. **46**Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. **47**All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. **48**His parents didn’t know what to think. “Son,” his mother said to him, “why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.” **49**“But why did you need to search?” he asked. “Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?”[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=NLT#fen-NLT-24991d)] **50**But they didn’t understand what he meant. **51**Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. **52**Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

Jesus did this, **not as God** but as a young man. Jesus operated in the gifts of the Spirit under the full anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told the disciples and the other believers that were there to WAIT for the Holy Spirit to come and when He did come down, He would give them POWER to be witnesses for Christ all around the world!

When the Holy Spirit came, on the day of Pentecost, we see the beginning of the SPIRITUAL GIFTS (listed in 1 Corinthians chapter 12) being poured out on God’s people. The GIFT OF TONGUES was the first gift to be poured out on God’s people. `

**John 14:12 (ESV)**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

The word “greater” actually means “more”. In other words, we will do a greater amount or more works than Christ did. We do those through the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT.

I have been praying about the direction we should go, in our teaching in Truth Sowers, once we finish the book of Genesis. I have prayed about teaching the book of Revelation or one of Paul’s epistles but I can’t get peace on those. I feel like the Holy Spirit is leading me to teach the “ABC’s” if you will of the “doctrines of Christ.” One of those teachings is that of the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT which are listed in 1 Corinthians 12. For a short list of the “doctrines of Christ” look at Hebrews chapter 6. One of those fundamental doctrines is the “doctrine of baptismS.” Most Christians only know of on baptism and many ministers only know of one but there are three that should be a part of a Christian’s life. Even ministers have scoffed at me when I mention there are three baptisms. Well, we will talk about them and lay a Biblical foundation to prove it. It will be fun and you will come away with a greater knowledge of the Word of God than most Christians have.

**Let’s go back to Genesis chapter 35.**

You may wonder why I seem to get off track or, “follow bunny trails” as it has been called when I am teaching on Genesis. Well, it is my purpose, through our teaching to find something, as I teach, that relates to our everyday lives. That is why it may seem that I am jumping off track. In the Old Testament, we have many “types and shadows” which are examples of things that happened physically in the Old Testament and somehow they relate to a spiritual truth in our lives now. It is my purpose to relate things that happened in Genesis to things that are happening now, in our lives.

Jacob and his clan were moving from Bethel to a place called Ephrath **(Bethlehem).** On the way, Rebekah gave birth to Benjamin **(son of my right hand)** but she died during child birth just after she named the baby.

Reuben (Jacob and Leah’s first son) had a sexual union with Bilhah (Rachel’s handmaiden, while she was living, and also the mother of Dan and Naphtali).

Jacob moved his family back to be with Isaac.

The names of the twelve sons of Israel (Jacob) are listed here in verses 23 – 26.

**Genesis 35:23-36 (NLT)**

**23**The sons of Leah were **Reuben** (Jacob’s oldest son), **Simeon**, **Levi**, **Judah**, **Issachar**, and **Zebulun**.

**24**The sons of Rachel were **Joseph** and **Benjamin**.

**25**The sons of Bilhah, Rachel’s servant, were **Dan** and **Naphtali**.

**26**The sons of Zilpah, Leah’s servant, were **Gad** and **Asher**.

These are the names of the sons who were born to Jacob at Paddan-aram.

We are told in Genesis 35:28 that Isaac lived to be 180 years old and when he died, he was buried by Esau and Jacob.

Chapter 36 of Genesis tells us of Esau’s descendants. He, also, had twelve sons or “princes” and their genealogy is given there. We will not cover this in our study.

Israel and Esau parted company. Esau moved his family away because there was not enough room to support both clans and all their livestock.

**Joseph the Dreamer**

**Genesis 37:1-3 (NLT)**

So Jacob settled again in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner.

**2**This is the account of Jacob and his family. When **Joseph** was seventeen years old, he often tended his father’s flocks. He worked for his half-brothers, the sons of his father’s wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.

**3**Jacob **loved Joseph more than any of his other children** because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe.

**Favoritism is NEVER good! It will always cause resentment in the other children. This is just another of the many faults that of God’s chosen people had.**

**Genesis 37:4-9 (NLT)**

**4But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them.** They couldn’t say a kind word to him.

**5**One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. **6**“Listen to this dream,” he said. **7**“We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!”

**8**His brothers responded, “So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

**9**Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. “Listen, I have had another dream,” he said. “The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!”