

J A C O B

8. A God who blesses Jacobs

Genesis 30:25-43

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet _____

- This chapter is about God fulfilling his promise to bless Jacob

1. The Pattern of Blessing

a) God blesses in spite of unfavourable circumstances

- Jacob has worked for 14 years, but has nothing, only 2 wives
- Wives and children may not even be free to go (Ex 21:3-6)
- Laban has him trapped
- Jacob offers to work for the minority of the flock

b) God blesses in spite of untrustworthy people

- Laban – a hard and cruel cheat
- He will cheat Jacob many times – 31:6
- Yet Jacob will be a blessing to him

c) God blesses in spite of unworthy actions

- Jacob can't leave the promise of blessing alone – he has to interfere
- Tries local superstitions & breeds only the strong for himself
- Still deeply flawed - Yet God is going to bless him

2. The Application of Blessing

- God promises to bless those who put their trust in Christ

a) God blesses in spite of unfavourable circumstances

- circumstances in the present – work, relationships, family
- circumstances regarding the future – fears, worries, uncertainty
- circumstances of our past – sinful and sinned against
- God promises to bless us *in spite of*, not *out of*

b) God blesses in spite of untrustworthy people

- Have people failed you? Hurt you?
- Do you work in an atmosphere of distrust?
- God promises to bless
- God promises that you will be a blessing to them

c) God blesses in spite of unworthy actions

- We are deeply sinful, yet that will not stop God's blessing
- God will deal with us to remove sinful ways
- A warning - Our actions still bring dishonour to God - the Christian does not do one thing in business/life and another at church
- Sin will have its consequences, but God still blesses

3. The Reason for Blessing

- Why would God bless sinners?
- Answer doesn't lie in us, but in Jesus

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a) Jesus secured blessings for us in spite of unpromising circumstances

- He took what we deserved so that we could enjoy his blessing

b) He secured blessings for us in spite of untrustworthy people

- Surrounded by people who fell away, he did not fall away
- Jesus has secured blessing out of the depths of darkest betrayal

c) He secured blessings because of our unworthiness

- We don't deserve, but Christ can pay for us.
- He became unworthy, so we could become worthy

- Why will you be blessed? All because of Jesus
- We need to go to him when in order to gain God's blessing
- He himself is the blessing, and our relationship with him is the prosperity
- If we have him, we are "exceedingly prosperous"
- We need to keep him in view when we feel unworthy, or despair of God's blessing