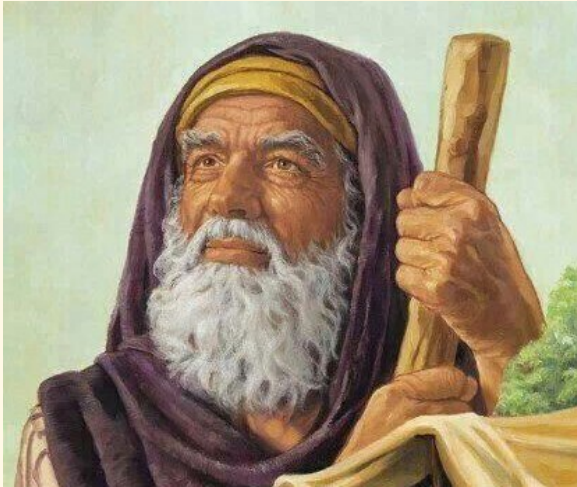


Jacob

"In the Beginning"



"And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."

Genesis 32:28

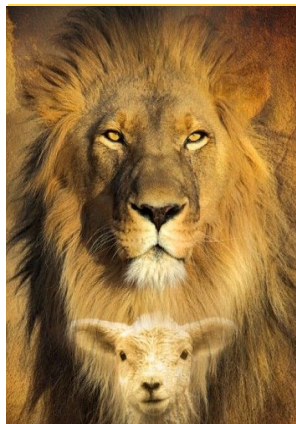
Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah, a twin. But these twins were nothing alike. Jacob was a quiet man and liked to dwell in tents. His brother, Esau, we'll discuss him another time.. The parents took sides with them. Isaac loved Esau, and Rebekah loved Jacob. The Bible says that from the time they were in the womb of Rebekah they were fighting.

As they grew, Esau was to receive the birthright and blessing, but Jacob tricked his father and received both of them. When Esau realized what had happened, he set out to punish Jacob, but Rebekah interfered and sent Jacob away to live with her brother's family. On the way, Jacob had a dream about a ladder to Heaven. Throughout his

life, God spoke to him many times; the ladder is probably the best known. Jacob knew that God was with him and promised to worship God. He did some back sliding, just like us. Jacob always came back to God, and God forgave him and continued to bless him. He told his uncle that he wanted to marry Rachel, and the uncle made him work for seven years for her. Then the uncle sent Leah, his other daughter instead of Rachel, and made him work another seven years for Rachel.

Through his years in that area, he prospered, and had twelve children. His name was changed to Israel, and his children became the twelve tribes of Israel. Only two of the sons are well known; they are Joseph and Benjamin, both the children of Rachel.

One day God appeared to Jacob and told him to go back to his home land and take his family with him. He was afraid. During that trip he wrestled with God, and he was blessed by God. He feared many things and places, but especially Esau. When he approached Esau, Esau ran to meet him and threw his arms around him in love. And Jacob said *"Please. If you can find it in*



"For I know the plans I have for you." declares the Lord, 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Jeremiah 29:11

your heart to welcome me, accept these gifts. When I saw your face, it was as the face of God smiling on me. Accept the gifts I have brought for you. God has been good to me and I have more than enough." Genesis 33:10-11 There is a beautiful camp song called "Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord" written by John Fisher. I think the words of it somehow tell the feeling that Jacob must have had when Esau welcomed him.

Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?

"Have you ever stood at the ocean with the white foam at your feet; Felt the endless thundering motion, Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever stood at the sunset with the sky mellowing red; Seen the clouds suspended like feathers, Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever stood at the cross with the man hanging in pain; Seen the look of love in His eyes, Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever stood in the family with the Lord there in your midst; Seen the face of Christ in your brother, Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Chorus:

*Have you seen Jesus, My Lord?
He's here in plain view.
Take a look; open your eyes.
He'll show it to you."*

Jacob and his mother had not dealt

honestly with Isaac or Esau, but Esau forgave him. So many times we are forgiven not only by God, but by friends that we judged wrongly, or treated poorly. We also often misjudge our family and then look back and see that we were wrong. We have a loving God, and a loving family. Remember that family is not always blood related.

“God does not love us because we are good. But God will make us good because He loves us unconditionally.”

Jacob had some wonderful qualities and he was very obedient in many ways. He was chosen by God to do many wonderful things just as we are today. Jacob sinned many times just like we do. The forgiveness of Esau must have been a wonderful blessing to him. If we read the story he was afraid and sent everyone else ahead. But Esau's love was a sincere love and Jacob was blessed.

*At the end of the day, may we each hear God speak to us
“Well Done, my Good and Faithful servant.”*

We see God in our family when we sacrifice for each other and when we serve others less fortunate than we are. We receive so much love in return for our giving so little. Jacob had reason to be afraid, but Esau had forgiveness in his heart.

I recently came across this and wanted to share it with you:
NOAH got drunk.
ABRAHAM was too old.
ISAAC was a daydreamer.
JACOB lied.
LEAH was ugly.
JOSEPH was abused.
MOSES was a murderer and couldn't talk.
GIDEON was afraid.
SAMSON had long hair and was afraid.
RAHAB was a prostitute.
JEREMIAH and TIMOTHY were too young.
DAVID was a murderer and adulterer.
ELIJAH was suicidal.
ISAIAH preached naked.
JONAH ran from God.
NAOMI was a widow.
JOB went bankrupt.
JOHN THE BAPTIST ate bugs.
PETER denied Christ.
The DISCIPLES fell asleep while praying.
MARTHA worried about everything.
MARY MAGDLENE was demon possessed.
The SAMARITAN WOMAN was divorced...more than once...
ZACCHEUS was too small.
PAUL was a murderer.
TIMOTHY had an ulcer.
and LAZARUS was dead!

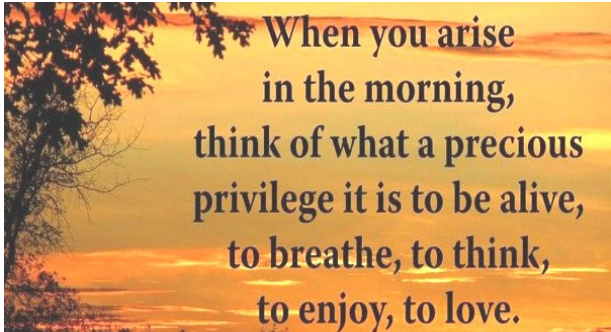
Remember *“God said ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”*(2 Cor 4:6-7) by Jim Daly, [DalyFocus](#)

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we know we are human and often time we do things that are not satisfactory in Your eyes, but You love us and forgive us. Help us to lead our families in the way of love so that Your love may shine through us. Amen.

1. Can you feel the love of forgiveness?
2. How can you forgive others?
3. What helps us to forgive or be forgiven?
4. Did Jacob trick Esau or did Esau exercise his free will and want the food for the birthright rather than go out and hunt? Remember he was the sportsman.
5. Can we see the look of love from God in our brother's/sister's eyes? What a blessing we receive if we can.

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Jacob: We first hear about Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:26. His life and influence are given in the book of Genesis through chapter 50, but the main emphasis of his life and how it influenced him and his family are included in the 10 chapters on Genesis from 25-36. Although Jacob is mentioned many times in the other books of the Bible, it is in reference mostly to his lineage.



**When you arise
in the morning,
think of what a precious
privilege it is to be alive,
to breathe, to think,
to enjoy, to love.**