

Genesis - Lesson 33

Genesis Chapter 33

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Memory verses for this week: *Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we try to cover both chapters 33 and 34 in one week. This was the plan according to our outline, and perhaps we can accomplish this in one morning. Chapter 33 begins with the reunion of Jacob and Esau.

I. Reconciliation with Esau

Gen 33:1 *And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids.*

Gen 33:2 *And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.*

Gen 33:3 *And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.*

Gen 33:4 *And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.*

Gen 33:5 *And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.*

Gen 33:6 *Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.*

Gen 33:7 *And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves.*

In last week's lesson, we saw the drawing of Esau to meet Jacob with the 400 men. Jacob lifted his eyes and sees Esau and his troop approaching. Last week we saw him put the gifts of the animals and his servants in front and now he divides and arranges in order, his wives and children. He puts the handmaids and their children in the front. Notice that he placed them in a particular order, according to his love and concern. Rachel in the safest place.

Jacob rushes ahead and bows himself 7 times. Once again we see the old Jacob, so full of fear and with so little faith and trust in God. What a change in Jacob the man who prevailed with God, as he slavishly bows before his brother 7 times. Yet, we see the same thing in Elijah who so heroically stood against the 400 prophets of Baal, but a short time later he flees from the woman Jezebel. Let this be a lesson for us. One victory does not guarantee a second one, and no matter what our position in life, we must always look to God for our help and strength.

It was a strange meeting when Esau rushes forward and embraces him and weeps. This was totally unexpected and his humble loving attitude had to be a great blessing to Jacob. We firmly believe that God had dealt with Esau, as He had done with Laban.

Pro 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

In verses 5 - 7, Esau meets Jacob's family. He left with basically little but the clothes on his back when he headed to Haran, but now returns with a large family and many cattle after being greatly blessed of the Lord during his 20 year absence from his brother and parents.

Gen 33:8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

Gen 33:9 And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.

Gen 33:10 And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

Gen 33:11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

Esau questions Jacob about the droves and reluctantly receives the gift. This was a very large gift as we studied in last week's lesson.

Gen 32:13 And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother;

Gen 32:14 Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams,

Gen 32:15 Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals.

Gen 32:16 And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove.

Gen 32:17 And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, Whose art thou? and whither goest thou? and whose are these before thee?

Gen 32:18 Then thou shalt say, They be thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, also he is behind us.

Gen 32:19 And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him.

Esau already had enough possessions and really didn't want to take these gifts from Jacob. But Jacob urges him to take it. He is so pleased that to him the face of Esau was kindly affectioned towards him and he saw it as the face of God. Some other examples of men seeing like an angel of God are recorded in the books of Samuel.

1Sa 29:9 And Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou art good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up

with us to the battle.

2Sa 14:17 Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.

Esau to Jacob was like the face of God, because he saw forgiveness in it. His face had been changed by God. When God directs our steps, he makes even our enemies to be at peace with us.

Pro 16:7 *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

Psa 119:164 Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Psa 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

In verse 11, Jacob testified of God's blessings, and finally Esau agrees and receives the gift.

Gen 33:12 And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee.

Gen 33:13 And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die.

Gen 33:14 Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir.

Gen 33:15 And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? let me find grace in the sight of my lord.

Gen 33:16 So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir.

Esau proposes that they journey together and that he will accompany Jacob. Jacob refuses and says that the children are tender and the flocks young, and he rejects the offer. Probably his reason goes much further than this. Jacob promises to meet him in Seir. Esau wants to leave some men to help, but Jacob rejects an offer for guards to be left with him. So finally, Esau returns with his men to Seir.

II. Jacob Begins to Reap What he has Sown

Gen 33:17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

Gen 33:18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.

Gen 33:19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.

Gen 33:20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.

Succoth was the opposite direction from Seir, but we find that this is the place where Jacob decided to reside. He had to cross back over the Jabbok to get to Succoth. This reveals his distrust and fear of Esau. You would think after the honorable way that

Esau had met with Jacob, and the promises God had made to him about returning home, that he would have went on to be with his family. Rather, it says in verse 17 that Jacob built a house for himself and booths for his cattle.

This speaks of an extended stay. His children were mature when he lived in Shechem and seems to indicate they stayed in Succoth for some time. When we do wrong, we have to pay the price for our actions. After many years of deception, things have turned and now Jacob is paying a price for his previous deeds. What is bad is that this seems to be almost self-inflicted in that his brother was looking forward to his return home.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

After a period of time in Succoth, Jacob moves to Shechem. Jacob arrives in Shechem safe and sound. "Shalem" means "peace" and/or "safe and sound." Verse 19 records how Jacob purchased some land there in the land of Canaan. He shows wisdom as he first builds an altar. Although this might have been built in self-will, it was named for God. It begins with "El" and ends with "el", which stands for Elohim, one of the names of God.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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