

GENESIS –Lesson 57

Learn: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28,29

Read: Genesis 33:1-20

1. After spending the night wrestling with God, Jacob returned to his family. What did he see as he looked up? v 1a
2. Before he went forth to greet his brother Esau, how did Jacob arrange his family? vv 1b,2
3. How did Jacob behave towards his brother when he came to him? v 3

NOTE: Jacob's bowing before Esau was not a sign of subservience, but a token of respect and recognition of Esau as the ruler of that region. The Tell Amarna tablets recorded that it was customary in those days that one approaching a king always bowed seven times before them.

4. What amazing thing happened next, considering Esau's hatred for Jacob in the past?
v 4

The reunion of these two brothers is a wonderful picture of God's working in the heart of those who will give up their bitterness and pride. Esau's hatred for his brother was turned into love, bringing joy to all involved.

Jacob saw God work in his life through the trials to bring about good for him. This helped Jacob to grow stronger in his love and trust for the Lord.

5. Though we may not always think that what happens in our life is for our good, what must we remind ourselves of? Romans 8:28
6. What is the purpose of the trials that come into a believer's life? Romans 8:29

7. Finally, Esau looked up from the reunion with his brother. When he asked Jacob who was with him, what did Jacob answer? v 5
8. As Jacob presented his family to Esau, how did they treat Esau? v 6
9. What was Esau's next question to his brother? v 8a
10. Though Esau was wealthy himself, Jacob urged him to receive the gift that he, Jacob offered. What did Esau's acceptance of the gift show according to Jacob? v 10

NOTE: Though our verses read in verses 9, 11 that both men said they had enough, the Hebrew words are different. Actually, Esau said, "I have much (rab)," whereas Jacob said, "I have everything (kol)." It is possible that Esau had more wealth than Jacob, though Jacob had been greatly blessed by the Lord; but Jacob knew that, in the Lord, he had an inexhaustible resource.

11. When the brothers took their leave of each other, what did Esau offer to Jacob?
vv 12, 15
12. What reasons did Jacob give for refusing both offers? vv 13-15
13. Jacob knew well that he would be cared for by the Lord and would not need Esau's protection. From what we learned in the past, why would it be good that the brothers, though reconciled, grow their households separately?
14. Jacob traveled slowly giving the cattle and families time to rest and regain their strength. What was the first place that Jacob stayed for awhile, before he crossed the

river Jordan and entered the land of Canaan proper? v 17

15. Some time later, Jacob crossed the Jordan and entered into Canaan, after his return from Padan-Aram. Where did he pitch his tent? v 18

16. What was significant about the place Shechem? Genesis 12:5-7

17. What did Jacob do when he arrived at Shechem? v19

18. What would be the reason for Jacob buying a parcel of land at this particular place?

19. What else did Jacob do at this location? John 4:6

20. What did Jacob do to commemorate his acquisition of land at Shechem? v 20

21. What happened later at this very location? Joshua 24:32

NOTE; Shechem was a prominent city throughout Biblical history, located on Mount Gerazim in what later became the territory of the tribe of Ephraim. It was very close to the future city of Samaria, which became the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel.

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Today this city is called Nablus and is controlled by the Palestinians.

Jacob named the altar El-elohe-Israel saying in effect that his God was the true and mighty God. "God was the God of Israel." It is significant that, in naming the altar, he used (for the first time, as far as record indicates) his new name "Israel."

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