

God's Calling in the Old Testament

Lesson Ten

GOD CALLED JACOB (1) (Rom. 9:11; Gen. 25:21-34; 27:41--28:2; 28:11-17)

Burden to Impart:

With Jacob we see that God chooses His called ones even before they are born. Although Jacob was born second (not first), he subtly bought the birthright from his brother, Esau. He later stole his father's dying blessing from Esau. Still, God had chosen him, regardless of his works. One day while this naughty boy was running for his life to another country, God appeared to him in a dream. The God of his fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac, was now his God, the God of Jacob.

Memory Verse:

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will cause you to return to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. (Genesis 28:15).

Facts to Teach:

1. Isaac's wife, Rebekah, gave birth to twins. Even before they were born they were already fighting within her belly. It seems they were struggling to see who would be the firstborn, for when the first child was delivered, the second was holding on to the heel of the first (Gen. 25:21-26). The firstborn was reddish in color and very hairy. He was named Esau. The second-born was smooth-skinned. He was named Jacob, which means "heel-holder." Even from his birth Jacob, the younger twin, was struggling to take the place of his older twin, Esau.
2. Jacob, however, did not need to struggle. It was not a question of who was born first or who was born second, of who was good or who was bad. The question of God's choosing was answered before their birth. God had chosen Jacob. Why? Because He is God, He has the right to make that choice.
3. One day after the boys grew up, Jacob craftily got Esau to give his birthright to him. (The firstborn son always had the birthright.) Esau came home one day famished with hunger after hunting. Jacob offered him some of the delicious stew he had made, on one condition: he must trade his birthright for the stew. Esau was so starving that he sold his precious birthright to his crafty brother for one bowl of stew (Gen. 25:27-34)!
4. Some years later when Isaac could no longer see, he wanted to bless his eldest son, Esau, before he would die. When Jacob's mother found out about this, she invented a crafty plan so that Jacob could get his father's dying blessing instead of Esau. Jacob came in to his old, blind father, Isaac, wearing Esau's clothing and with Lambskin coverings on his hands and around his neck, to receive his blessing. His father asked, "who are you?" Jacob said, "I am Esau, your first born" (Gen. 27:19). This was a lie. He then told him "come near, I pray you, that I may feel you, my son, whether you be my son Esau or not." Jacob went near unto Isaac his father, and Isaac felt him, saying "the voice is Jacob's voice but the hands are the hands of Esau." He discerned him not because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands, so he blessed Him (Gen. 27: 15-23).
5. When Esau found out that his crafty brother had stolen his father's blessing from him by lying and deceiving his father, he was so angry that he planned to kill Jacob after his

father died. Jacob's mother, however, found out about Esau's plot and made up an excuse to send Jacob away to his uncle Laban's house in their former country to find a wife (Gen. 27:41—28:2). So Jacob fled his brother and country to save his life.

6. Although Jacob was a naughty, cheating, "heel-holder," he was chosen by God. He did not yet know God but he met God in a dream one night on his journey. He dreamed and saw a ladder that reached from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending upon it. God was at the top of the ladder and revealed himself to Jacob saying, "I am the God of Abraham, your father, and the God of Isaac... the land whereon you lie, to you will I give it and to your seed" (Gen. 28:11-13). The Lord promised that He would go with Jacob wherever he journeyed, and would safely bring him back one day to his homeland (28:15). Jacob awoke from his dream and said, "Surely, the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." He called the name of that place "Bethel," "Which means "he house of God" (28: 16-17).

7.

(This lesson can be divided into 2 lessons: points 1-3/points 4-6)