

## Genesis, pt2: Awesome God Worthy of Faithful Obedience

### Genesis 28

**MPS** God calls people to salvation in Jesus Christ so that thru faithful obedience we can glorify Him with our whole life.

**OBJ** Every person can understand God's covenant salvation in Jesus Christ by three aspects.

**INTRO** Thanksgiving is a holiday that affords the perfect opportunity to recognize, either for the first time or again with equal wonder, the awesomeness of God. I was reminded this year, maybe more than ever before, that Thanksgiving is not primarily about giving thanks "for" all things, but "in" all things to the One who is worthy of our whole life. [Jesus is worthy of our all, and today I want us to see how we can give our all for the glory of His Name.](#)

[God calls people to salvation in Jesus Christ so that thru faithful obedience we can glorify Him with our whole life.](#)

**OBJ** [Three Aspects of Faithful Obedience to God's Awesomeness](#) in giving our whole life to Jesus.

**TRANS** Consider the lives of two brothers as we watch them go their separate directions in life. I want you to see...

#### 1. A life-altering introduction. **Gen 28:1-9**

*Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. <sup>2</sup>Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. <sup>3</sup>God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. <sup>4</sup>May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!" <sup>5</sup>Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.*

*<sup>6</sup>Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women," <sup>7</sup>and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. <sup>8</sup>So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, <sup>9</sup>Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth. **Genesis 28:1-9***

Isaac calls Jacob in to bless him and send him to find a wife. He tells him that he must take a wife from among their own people. He speaks God's blessing over him, reminding him of all that God will do through him. Then he sends him away. Verse five records that Jacob left and did as he was told, without question or comment. [With the blessing of God, Jacob trusted to obey Isaac.](#)

**Esau is watching and listening.** When he sees what transpires with Jacob, what he was told and how he obeyed, he decided he would try to appease his parents as well. And what better time to do so than when Jacob was gone. So, he went to a part of the family to take, again, his own wife. Esau takes a wife from Ishmael, Abraham's other son. [Again, we see Esau's failed attempt to accomplish what he most hoped for, but only fail.](#)

Jacob was not perfect, by far. But when told to go and take a wife, the simplicity with which he went is the most notable aspect of the story. Jacob trusted to obey. Esau, though, still trying to measure up, heard what was said to Jacob and tried to live it out in his own way. Bent on trying to earn his own blessing, Esau tried to accomplish what he heard said to Jacob in his own strength. In this way, he would impress his parents and earn their love and acceptance.

**Many approach God believing they must earn His love or prove themselves.** And one way they try to do it is by replicating what they see others do, not for God but to impress those from whom they seek approval or acceptance. But this is not how God works. God does not call us to act like what we see other people doing, to live out someone else's obedience or only mimic what we see them doing, but to trust that "He is with us". There is nothing we can do to earn God's love, but we don't have to. God already loves you. This is why He sent Jesus. Recognizing the awesomeness of God begins



by trusting to rest in the simple truths of a life-altering introduction to God. <sup>1</sup>There is **nothing we can** do to earn God's love. <sup>2</sup>There is **nothing we must** do to earn God's love. <sup>3</sup>God **already** loves you.

Have you settled this in your heart, or are you still trying to earn His love and acceptance by your striving? Are you trying to live out a relationship with God by just mimicking or replicating what you see others doing that you think are "spiritual" people? Today God wants you to trust in this; He loves you and wants to walk with you to live out His Will for your life.

**TRANS** Because God loves us, He comes to us.

## 2. **A life-changing revelation. Gen 28:10-15**

*Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! <sup>13</sup>And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup>Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup>Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. **Genesis 28:10-15***

Jacob comes to a place to rest for the night. God appears to him in a dream, by a ladder with angels ascending and descending. He shares His promise with Jacob (.13-15), so Jacob will know who He is! God promises to bless him, be with him and to make sure all that He has said is done. **The blessing of Abraham is given to Jacob, with all the fullness of its promise, provision and protection in his life.**

**In Jacob's dream, heaven opens and comes down to invite him up.** The blessing of Abraham is given to Jacob. It is not only a covenant for one person, but to all who by faith trust in Him. The blessing and promise of God's covenant to Abraham reveals His salvation. God comes to us to save us, to live in us and make us like Him, so one day we will live with Him in heaven for eternity.

### **God's revelation God to Jacob about His covenant can be outlined in three simple statements.**

First, **the promise of God is secured by His presence.** God came down to reveal Himself to Jacob. **Why?** Because this is the first critical truth of His covenant; **God comes to us in salvation.** We do not have to try to earn our way to Him, because we cannot. **What is God telling Jacob, and us?** "Stop your striving, Jacob, your cheating, swindling, coveting, stealing, and striving to get all you can. I am here for you and I am all you need." **God comes to us to be with us: He will never leave us nor forsake us!**

Second, **the presence of God assures us of the sufficiency of His power.** God, who is WITH us, will be the One who is FOR us! All that He promises is what He will do. **God's presence with us assures us that His power will be sufficient to accomplish all that He has promised to us.**

Third, **the sufficiency of His power makes certain the perfect completion of His work in us.** Finally, as he tells Jacob so He promises us, that what He starts in us He will complete for us. <sup>Phil1:6</sup>

**Have you heard to believe this life-changing revelation from God?** It's not only for the few, but for all who hear and believe.

**Christian, are you holding faithful to Jesus Christ, knowing that God's promise is sufficient for you?** If you feel your faith is weak, remember: a weak faith does not mean God is weak. It simply means you are at the point where God must work, and that's the place where you God works most and best.

**TRANS** Jacob is overwhelmed by the awesomeness of God's promise! So— he responds to God's promise of salvation!

## 3. **A life-transforming response. 28:16-22**



Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

<sup>18</sup>So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19</sup>He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. <sup>20</sup>Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, <sup>21</sup>so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, <sup>22</sup>and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you. **Genesis 28:16-22**

**Jacob wakes to a heightened attention of God's presence; "the Lord is in this place!"** This new knowledge of God's presence fills his whole being with an overwhelming awe. Jacob has been in the house of God and the gate of Heaven! This is no ordinary attention and produces a unique response. Jacob says, "If God is this awesome, He is worthy of my whole life!" So, Jacob makes **a whole life commitment that involves three parts.**

**First**, Jacob commits his whole life by making **a personal confession of his faith**, "If God...then the Lord shall be my God." Trying to follow God without a personal confession of faith only ends in frustrated and embittered striving without earning. A confession is not merely a statement of fact or even truth, but one of which you bring the whole of your life under the reality of. This is why **Romans 10:8-10** states,

*"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);  
<sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."*

Confession with the mouth states what conviction has taken hold in the heart. And confession must precede commitment because surrender precedes service. Until you recognize God for who He is, you will never fully acknowledge all that He is worthy of, your whole life. **But once you encounter the revelation of who God is and believe, you confess that He is worthy of your all.**

**Second**, Jacob sets up **a pillar of worship** to God. This means that Jacob committed to build a Temple where God would be worshiped. Yes, there will be a building constructed for the worship of God. But more importantly is the temple in which God inhabits to abide, the life of His people. Paul tells the Corinthians, "*you are God's temple and...God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup>For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*"<sup>1Cor3:16-17</sup> When we trust God for salvation, He not only comes down to us, but He comes to live in us. We are His Temple that He is building into a "house of worship". **God inhabits the life of every Christian to build a life where to worthiness and glory of His Name are on display to the whole world.**

**Have you settled this in your heart, Christian, that it's not just what you do with, but that your whole life is God's Temple?**

**Third**, Jacob commits **a portion that honors God in all**. He commits to give a tenth of all God gives to him to honor Him as the Source of all. The tenth, or tithe, is the Biblical portion that represents the whole to honor God as source of all. **We honor Jesus when we live as faithful stewards to give Him a portion that represents the whole of life.**

No confession can be made before conviction of belief takes hold in the heart. And no conviction is anchored nor confession complete until commitment has been made that rightly reflects the One to whom we honor with our whole life. **The way we live our whole life reveals whose we are; we either honor God with our whole life, or we honor self.**

**Are you honoring God with your whole life in a way that rightly reflects Him as the owner of the whole you?**

**God calls people to salvation in Jesus Christ so that thru faithful obedience we can glorify Him with our whole life.**

