

GENESIS 33; February 2; Jacob & Esau Reconcile

ANALYSIS:

1. In going to meet Esau, why did Jacob put the handmaids and their children first?

2. Did Esau receive Jacob as Jacob expected him to? _____

3. What three things did Jacob persuade Esau of during their conversation?

4. What did Jacob live in when he dwelt at Succoth?

5. We do not read any more of Isaac after Jacob returned from Padanaram. But was Isaac dead?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

When Esau asked Jacob who the children were that he saw with Jacob, Jacob answered, "The children which God hath graciously given thy servant." Jacob understood well that he did not deserve any of the blessings that the LORD had given him (see also 32:10). And, he was quick to attribute his blessings to the LORD. Do I always keep in mind just how much I am dependent on the mercy and grace of God in my life? Considering how much the LORD has done for us, we ought to be always ready to give him much praise and thanksgiving!

Notice that in this chapter and the previous one, while Jacob trusted the LORD for protection from Esau, he did everything in his power to achieve a peaceful reconciliation with his older brother. He gave Esau generous gifts, he called Esau his lord, he bowed himself to the ground seven times, and he compared seeing the face of Esau to seeing the face of God. The LORD expects us to wisely use means to accomplish those requests that we pray to him for.

HELP:

1. Because they were less important to him than Leah and Rachel and their sons.
2. No, Esau was much more gracious and generous than Jacob expected. The LORD blessed Jacob wonderfully in this very difficult situation.
3. To take his gifts (vs 10-11); to not go with Jacob (vs 13-14); and to not leave some of his men with Jacob (v 15).
4. A house (v 17).
5. No, Isaac lived to be 180; his sons Esau and Jacob buried him (Gen 35:28-29 Sorry, I had to skip ahead for the answer).