

## **Building on Biblical Foundations**

### **“The Human Condition and the Perfect Solution”**

**Karin Paparelli Peters**

**Genesis 26-28**

**July 21, 2024**

#### **Genesis 26 – Summarized - Same old Lies**

Genesis 26: There is a famine in the land and Isaac goes to Gerar – the land of the Philistines. The Lord appeared to him and re-confirmed the blessing of Abraham that Isaac’s seed would be as the stars of the heaven and through his seed all nations would be blessed. There is once again the lie that Rebekah is his sister not his wife – just as Abraham had said about Sarah. When this is discovered he and Rebekah are sent away – and the Lord continues to bless them with abundant flocks and herds.

They leave – they dig wells. The locals fill in the wells. They go further, dig another well and so on and so on.

The King comes to Isaac and asked him to swear an oath of peace between them – because they all can see the Lord is with Isaac. And he does.

#### **Chapter 27 Summarized – The betrayal**

We begin chapter 27 with Isaac nearing his death., He calls Esau – remember – Esau was his favorite and Jacob was Rebekah’s favorite.

He instructs Esau to fetch him venison and make him a stew, so that he might bestow upon Esau a blessing before he dies. Rebekah overhears and gets Jacob to act as Esau and trick his father into blessing him instead. Their plan works and Isaac blesses Jacob...even though it is done in deceit, the blessing supersedes the trickery. When Esau discover this he is enraged and vows to murder his brother.

Rebekah sends Jacob away. Back to the land of her brother Laban – and tell him to get a wife from her brother’s household.

#### **Chapter 28 – Summarized – God is Faithful**

On his journey Jacob has a dream. He dreams of a ladder on the earth reaching into heaven and Angels ascending and descending.

**The Lord appears to him and says “I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land where you lie, I will give to thee and thy seed.” 28:13**

When Jacob awakes he knows that the Lord is in this place, and declares it as a gate to heaven. He creates an altar out of his rock pillow and pour oil upon it and names the place BETHEL. ( **Bethel – means “house of God”**)

## **Chapter 29 – Summarized – The law of reciprocity or “What Goes Around Comes Around”**

We find Jacob at the house of Laban. He agrees to work 7 years for Laban in exchange for his daughter Rachel – the younger of two daughters. For he immediately falls in love with Rachel. Laban is also a deceiver. On the wedding night he substitutes his daughter Leah for Rachel. In the morning – when the lights are on – Jacob discovers the treachery. He insists on marrying Rachel. Laban explains that the elder must marry first – but if Jacob will work another 7 years, he may have Rachel as a wife too.

Poor Leah – she is now married to a man who does not love her, but we end the story with her bearing Jacob 4 sons. The first 4 tribes of Israel – Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah.

### **What have we just learned?**

1. **There are laws created by God that surpass the laws of men.** One of those laws is reciprocity – the rule that as you sow, you shall also reap. If you sow in discord, you shall reap division. If you sow in deceit, you shall reap in treachery. If you sow in kindness, you shall reap in kindness. If you sow in generosity toward others, you shall reap in generosity toward you.
2. **Humanity is fraught with imperfections.** Lying, deceiving, treachery, anger, rage, murderous intent. Only through Jesus Christ can we attain perfection and that is not of us, but only as we abide in HIM. **Jesus is the PERFECT SOLUTION TO the Human Condition.**
3. **God’s plan does not hinge on the human condition.** God has a plan and it WILL come to pass. He chooses to use imperfect humans to accomplish his WILL.
4. **Each heart must bear its own trouble.** Leah finds herself married to a man who did not want her, yet she is blessed with 4 sons. Rachel is married to a man who adores her, yet she is unable to conceive. Every life has its own struggles. And each one of us is given the grace to bear up in our circumstance. We do not have the grace for another’s person’s trouble, but we are given grace for our own trials.
5. **There is NO EASY WAY.** Another way may appear more desirable – but each one of us will face trials of many kinds – designed to sharpen our skills, deepen our faith and purify

our hearts. Our best course is to lean on the Lord, to submit to HIS perfection and allow Him to shape us into what He has created us to be.

We are living in uncertain times. The news media will do what it does – alarm and incite. We do not know what a day brings.

Friday night at 11:30 pm an alarm sounded on our phones. We were not yet asleep so both George and I sat up and reached for our phones, obviously disturbed. Was it a tornado? A natural disaster? We could not open the alert but George managed to find the Tennessee Code Annotated – TCA 58-2-110 – We looked that up. Military affairs, emergencies and Civil Defense. What??? More specifically Emergency management powers of Political subdivisions. What does that mean? Was it martial law? Now we were wide awake. After finding nothing else – we discovered it was a BLUE ALERT - a police officer had been shot and the suspect got away.

For a few moments – before we knew what was happening all we knew was that there was an alarm that rang out. Our minds searched for how we should prepare.

It reminded me of what Jesus said:

Matthew 24:36-51

**36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[f] but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.**

**42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**

**45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.**

Just as the Lord had a plan for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... He has a plan for you and me. We may stumble as we live in these human tents we call flesh and bones, but His plan will not be thwarted by our imperfection. Jesus said he will return and he will. The entire world is being prepared for such a day. His kingdom shall rule the world and all of its inhabitants. These are truths that will

not be altered. Will you be ready when the alarm rings? Will you prepared to meet your Lord? Is he Your Lord?

Jacob made mistakes. His character was flawed. Yet he knew God. He worshipped God. He chose to follow God. That same choice is ours today. Do you know God? Do you worship God? Do you follow God?

When the alarm sounds there will be NO time left to get ready. Surely it will be “ready or Not here I am.”

I am praying that all of us here today will be ready to enter into the joy of the Lord’s presence on that day.

Let us Pray ... Communion.