

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 10, 2023

GENESIS 33:12FF

### INTRODUCTION:

1. In a beautiful reunion of two brothers who were once enemies, Esau urged Jacob to come with him back to Seir. It was an offer of companionship and protection. (Gen. 33.12)
2. Jacob was hesitant to go with Esau. Instead, he headed west to the city of Succoth.

### I. WHY DID JACOB STAY BEHIND?

- A. Jacob responds to Esau's invitation.
  1. **GENESIS 33.13:** *"the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die."*
  2. Jacob sent Esau ahead of him and traveled much slower *"at the pace of the livestock...and at the pace of the children"* (Gen. 33.14)
  3. Esau offered to leave men behind to help. (Gen. 33.15)
    - a) What kind of help was Esau offering? (Gen. 32.6,7)
    - b) Jacob refused Esau's offer suggesting faith. (Gen. 28.15; 31.3,13; 32.9)
- B. Be careful to look for safety and protection from the world at the exclusion of God.
  1. Do we put our trust in materialism?
    - a) To trust in riches is wickedness. (Ps. 52.6,7; Job 31.24)
    - b) Money is only temporary. (Matt. 6.19-21; 1 Tim. 6.17)
    - c) Money creates divided loyalties. (Matt. 6.22-24)
  2. Do we put our trust in other people?
    - a) Like money, people are limited. (Ps. 146.3-7; Jer. 17.5)
    - b) Is it wrong to trust people? (2 Chr. 16.11-13)

### II. WHERE DID JACOB TRAVEL?

- A. **GENESIS 33.17:** *"And Jacob journeyed to Succoth"*
  1. **GENESIS 33.17:** *"built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock."* Indicates that he intended an extended stay.
  2. Succoth: Literally, "booths" and was not part of the land of Canaan.
    - a) It was a city on the other side of the Jordan river. (Num. 32.1,5)
    - b) Later it became part of the land of Israel. (Josh. 13.24,27)
- B. **GENESIS 33.18:** *"The Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem"*
  1. "Safely" translates the Hebrew word "shalem" in the form of an adjective. Though some translations render the word as a proper noun. (cf. Gen. 28.21)
  2. Shechem, named for the man who owned the land, was a place of great historical significance. (Gen. 12.6; Josh. 24.1,32; 1 Kings 12.1)
  3. **GENESIS 33.19,20:** *"And he bought the parcel of land...Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel."* Literally, the God of Israel.
- C. Seir is south. Succoth is west. Did Jacob ever intend to visit his brother in Seir?
  1. His purpose was always to return to Canaan. (Gen. 28.10,15,18,19; 31.3; 35.1)
  2. There is no indication that Jacob was being deceitful. After he returned home to Canaan as commanded, Jacob may have visited Esau.