

Abraham Cycle Continued:

- I. Genesis 22 strictly considered
 - A. 22:1 is a heading to the story. (see Genesis 1)
 - B. “After these things” remember Ishmael, but the focus is Abraham’s testing.
 - C. This story recounts a test.
 1. Emergency: This is only a test
 2. Serves to relieve audience so as to keep focused on Abraham. Must go where the text takes you.
 3. Within the text notice how the focus moves to God: v.8;v.14—continues for generations to interpret the story as such.
- II. OT Context
 - A. Genesis – Chronicles
 1. 2 Chronicles 3:1/ builds on Mt. Moriah.
 - a) Moriah is only mentioned twice in OT. Must have been thinking of Genesis 22.
 - b) Foundational lens for temple system
 - (1) Substitutionary system of atonement provided by God.
 2. 2 Samuel 24
- III. NT Context
 - A. John 3:16—Focus is on God the Father.
 1. “World” equivalent to sinners or Gentiles.
 2. Everlasting life is the blessing pronounced to the world.
 - B. Behold the Lamb of God
 1. Daily lamb of offering?
 2. Passover?
 3. Genesis 22 is historically tied to Passover
 - C. Romans 8:32
 1. Ch. 8 is focused on assurance
 2. The cross is the great demonstration of God’s love for you. [Focus on Father again]
 - D. Re-read Genesis 22 back through lens of NT
 - E. God has provided His Son. Through faith in Him sinners (the world) may have eternal life.

Jacob Cycle

B. THE JACOB CYCLE:³

- A** Oracle sought; Struggle in childbirth, Jacob born; *bekhorah*-birthright (25.19-34)
- B** Interlude: Rebekah in foreign palace, pact with foreigners ; *berakhah*-blessing (26.1-34)
- C** Deception; *berakhah*-stolen; Jacob fears Esau and flees (27.1-28.9)
 - D** Sun sets;
(Angelic) messengers, Divine encounter (*paga'*)
Leaving the Land; *berakhah* (28.10-22)
 - E** Arrival at Haran (29.1-30)
 - F** Jacob's wives are fertile (29.31-30.24)
 - X** Rachel gives birth to Joseph
Jacob decides to return to Canaan
 - F'** Jacob's flocks are fertile (30.25-43)
 - E'** Flight from Haran (31.1-34)
 - D'** Sun rises;
(angelic) messengers, Divine encounter (*paga'*)
Entering the Land; *berakhah* (32.1-32)
 - C'** Deception planned; Jacob returns and fears Esau; *berakhah*-gift returned (33.1-20)
 - B'** Interlude: Dinah in foreign palace, pact with foreigners (34.1-31)
 - A'** Oracle fulfilled; Struggle in childbirth, Jacob becomes Israel; *berakhah* (35.1-22)

Main Notes:¹

- I. Blessing the nations is established as the program, but is not the main theme of the Jacob cycle. However, the coherence is obvious.
- II. D on outline: On the way out of the promised Land; Brother is upset;
 - A. Genesis 28:10–Certain place=sacred place; makom מִקְוֶה ; This is emphasized in the Hebrew.
 - B. Genesis 28:11 ff

¹ *The New Isaac (Genesis 22 and importance to NT)- Isaac themes in Matthew *Jan Fokkelman: The Art of Hebrew Narrative; Narrative Art in Genesis

1. Promise is passed down to Jacob verse 13-14. Same emphasis—families of the earth will be blessed.
 2. Babel is translated gate of heaven. Jacob is given gate to heaven (v.17).
- III. D and D'= Summary Comparisons
- A. Leaving (v.10); Returning (32:1)
 - B. Sunset (v.11); Sunrise (32:23)
 - C. Meets God in same place both times (angels on way out and way in)
- IV. What is Jacob's life like?
- A. Vv.20,21– What is his physical state? What is his physical state in D'
 - B. What is his view of God at this point?
 1. Bargains; has to wrestle with God for daily provision; has to use every means possible to get his due (brother in womb; duped father; Esau knows that God wants followers and therefore negotiates);
 2. Notice the vow. The vow establishes the narrative arc- When will this happen? When will Jacob become a loyal devotee of God;
 - a) 25:22ff; Birth: The grasper; The trickster
 - b) God will out wrestle Jacob!!!
- V. Ch.29 type scene: Kind of like a local bar or cafe to meet women?
- A. Abraham's servant; Moses at well; Samaritan woman (John uses 7 [wedding jars]; 5 husbands; man she is with; 7th is Jesus)
 - B. Jacob in Jewish tradition is considered very strong due to texts like this. (Goes along with wrestler and love for Rachel)
 - C. Fun Observation:
 1. Rachel= Ewe= Baah=is coming v6,9
 2. Play on her name with Jacob's voodoo later
 - D. V13ff
 1. Notice reaction from Laban
 2. Jacob told him all these things. Laban's response—"You are a chip off the old block!"
 - a) Ch.24:29-character
 - b) How is Laban depicted? Look through Laban's eyes.
 3. Laban knows too much and has the upperhand. He know that Jacob cannot return home.
 - a) God's method of discipline
 - E. Laban will outwit Jacob
 1. 29:25-26- a little jab to Jacob
 2. Getting just deserts-part of Jacob's humbling
- VI. Ch.30- of outline
- A. v25-Joseph is the pivot and wants to go back home now.
 1. v22-God remembered (the flood narrative; Noah and the narrative turns)
 - B. Jacob's voodoo for bearing young
- VII. D'=Ch. 32
- A. vv1-2: Angels of God meet him.

B. v.9

1. 28:13 - What is missing?
2. Still present in v.9, but tension is building.

C. v.22-26

1. v.26 same grasper as always.
2. Something huge has taken place signaled by name change.
 - a) When Abraham went through major change, Abraham had a name change.
 - b) Name change and limp for Jacob
3. Jacob is a new man v.31. What happened?
 - a) He thinks he has been wrestling with man, but really has been wrestling God.
 - b) Therefore, when wrestling with man, actually wrestling with God.
 - (1) Basketball=God engages in a condescending way. Says you won, but reminder that God is merciful.
 - (2) Jacob learns that all his life God has been caring for him (33:11).
 - (3) Rebecca= 25:22
 - (a) Jacob you are wrestling for nothing
 - (b) God has already determined to give me everything from the womb.
 - (c) We know that Jacob has everything, but Jacob doesn't.
 - (d) Fundamentally a message about election. Made the decision from the womb. All my life God has chosen to bless me.
 - (e) Romans 9:6-16 &

VIII. Blessing of the nations to Electing Love

- A. What is the connection between God's electing love and blessing of the nations?
- B. Notice 9:25,26- theme is picked back up in Paul's mind
- C. Election of Israel for the sake of blessing the nations
 1. Jacob becomes Israel and therefore Israel is elected.

IX. Narrative Arc=the crisis comes to a resolution.

- A. What does it mean for Israel to be elected by God's love?
 1. Israel has one Lord YHWH.
 2. Think of Jacob's journey. Where is the resolution?
 - a) What is the trigger for the narrative? Jacob is not yet a worshipper. Does he ever fulfill the vow.
 - b) 33:18ff
 - (1) He came safely (שָׁלֵם)
 - (2) Climatic verse is in v.20: אֵל אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

X. Chapter 35:9-15 gives a summary