

Jacob Cycle Continued

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 with 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