Isaac September 17

Finding a Wife

 A wife for Isaac had to be chosen from the relatives and not from the girls in the land of Canaan, where they now lived. –“… You must go back to the country where I was born and get a wife for my son Isaac from among my relatives.” Genesis 24:4.

 A servant was sent to northern Mesopotamia, to where Nahor, Abraham’s brother lived with his family.

 The servant arrived at the well outside the city where the weapon came to get water. The servant prayed for a way of knowing the girl that should be Isaac's wife. Before he finished praying a girl arrived, she offered the servant a drink and to water the camels, just as he had wanted as a sign of the right girl!

 The servant settled the idea of Rebecca becoming Isaac's wife with the family and took her back to Isaac and she did indeed become Isaac's wife!

 Our spouses should also be chosen from "the family" the family of God, not bloodlines but from God's love line!

 God will show us the right person as a spouse if we only ask and follow his lead.

A LINGERING THOUGHT: Do you follow God's will?

VERSE FOR TODAY: And they gave Rebecca their blessing in these words:

“May you, sister, become the mother of millions! May your descendants conquer the cities of their enemies!”

Genesis 24:60.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to follow your will in all my life decisions.

Isaac September 18 Esau and Jacob

 Isaac and Rebecca were married when Isaac was 40 years old. Rebecca was barren, Isaac prayed to God for children and Rebecca became pregnant.

 We will receive blessings from God if we ask and have faith will receive them!

 Rebecca was carrying twins and there was a lot of struggle within her – She said, “Why should something like this happen to me?” So she went to ask the Lord for an answer. The Lord said to her,

“Two nations are within you;

You will give birth to two rival peoples.

One will be stronger than the other;

The older will serve the younger.”

 Genesis 25:22b, 23.

 The Lord is always ready and able to help us with our problems if we only ask!

 Twins did arrive in Isaac's household, – The first one was reddish, and his skin was like a hairy robe, so he was named Esau. The second one was born holding tightly to the heel of Esau, so he was named Jacob. Genesis 25:25, 26a.

 Isaac and Rebekah waited 20 years for their children! They stayed faithful praying for the blessing of children. Patience is one of the hardest virtues to practice; the Lord works in his time not ours!

A LINGERING THOUGHT: Do you asked the Lord's help with everything?

VERSE FOR TODAY: The time came for her to give birth, and she had twin sons. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born. Genesis 25:24, 26b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to remember you in my times of need but not to forget to thank you for the happy times and praise your name.

Esau and Jacob September 19

Anything for Food

 The twins grew up, Esau, a skilled hunter and his father's favorite because he savored the animals Esau brought home. Jacob was quiet and helped his mother cook; he was his mother's favorite.

 One day when Esau came back from the hunt, he was very hungry – and said to Jacob,

"I'm starving; give me some of that red stuff."(That is why he was called Edom.)

 Jacob answered, "I will give it to you if you give me your rights as the firstborn son."

 Esau said," All right! I am about to die; what good will my rights do me then?"

 Jacob answered, "First make a vow that you will give me your rights."

 Esau made the vow and gave his rights to Jacob. Genesis 25:30 – 33.

 Esau was given the food, he ate and left – That was all Esau cared about his rights as a firstborn son. Genesis 25:34b.

 We should not be like Esau; we need to care about our inheritance, not our earthly inheritance from relatives etc. but our inheritance of the heavenly kingdom.

 We need to depend on the Lord for our care and not sell our soul for food.

A LINGERING THOUGHT: Your salvation is a daily concern.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Isaac preferred Esau, because he enjoyed the animals Esau killed, but Rebecca preferred Jacob. Genesis 25:28.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always be faithful, to know you will provide and not to sell my soul.

Isaac September 20

At Gerar

 Another famine struck Canaan. God instructed Isaac to stay in Canaan so Isaac received permission from Abimelech, King of the Philistines to live at Gerar.

 Isaac did the same thing with Rebecca that Abraham had done with Sarah, telling everyone Rebecca was his sister and not his wife. Although this time it worked to his advantage, when the King found out – Abimelech warned all the people: "Anyone who ill treats this man or his wife will be put to death." Genesis 26:11.

 Isaac and his family went on living, planting, harvesting with the Kings permission and protection. The Lord blessed Isaac and he became a very rich man. – Then Abimelech said to Isaac, "Leave our country. You have become more powerful than we are." Genesis 26:16.

 Isaac moved into the Valley of Gerar, there his servants dug wells, the first two were argued about with us shepherds of Gerar, the wells were called ‘Quarrel’ and ‘Enmity’. Isaac moved away and dug another well with no arguments and this well was called ‘Freedom’.

 We too, can have freedom from quarrels if we turn our lives over to God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: He said, “Now the Lord has given us freedom to live in the land, and we will be prosperous here.” Genesis 26:22c.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank you, O Lord, for the freedom I have in you, freedom from stress and arguments, freedom to pursue your will in my life and to serve you.

The Blessing September 21

Jacob Blessed

 The blessings of the future and family went to the eldest son, when Isaac became old and blind he was ready to give Esau his blessing. Isaac sent Esau out to hunt and bring him the meat that he enjoyed so much.

 Rebecca overheard the conversation and sent Jacob to get goats to cook. They dress Jacob up in Esau's clothes and use the goatskin to make Jacobs smooth skin hairy like Esau's, because Jacob and his mother were about to deceived Isaac and get Esau's blessing for Jacob the deception worked – As he came up to kiss him, Isaac smelled his close – so he gave him his blessing. He said, "The pleasant smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed…May you rule over all your relatives, and may your mother's descendents bow down before you. May those who curse you be cursed, and may those who bless you be blessed.” Genesis 27:27, 29b. This was to be Esau's blessing according to tradition but this was God's plan for Esau and Jacob that Jacob would receive the blessing.

 Deception is an evil thing, we need to be careful in this life not to be deceived by the devil and not let evil come into our lives.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jacob moved closer to his father, who felt him and said, "Your voice sounds like Jacob's voice, but your arms feel like Esau's arms." Genesis 27:22.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always realize your will and your way for me that I will not be deceived by evil.

Evil Plans September 22

Esau's Revenge

 Esau did return and took the meat to his father – he said, "Please, father, sit up and eat some of the meat that I have brought back for you so that you can give me your blessing." Genesis 27:31b. Isaac and Esau discovered together that Jacob had deceived Isaac into giving the blessing to him instead of Esau. Esau was understandably bitter, this was the second time Jacob had cheated Esau out of what was rightfully his.

 Esau made plans to kill Jacob, his mother found out and talked to Isaac about sending Jacob back to their relatives to find a wife, so Esau would have time to cool off. Isaac and Rebecca did not want Jacob marrying the Canaanite girls like Esau – Rebecca said to Isaac, "I am sick and tired of Esau's foreign wives. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite girls, I might as well die." Genesis 27:46.

 Jacob left Beersheba and started his journey to Haran; he left for three reasons, to escape his brother's wrath, to obey his parents wish and to find a wife among the relatives.

 We can escape the wrath of man but God's judgment wrath will be inescapable! We need to live in fear and awe of God's presence!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Go instead to Mesopotamia, to the home of your grandfather Bethuel, and marry one of the young women there, one of your uncle Laban's daughters. Genesis 28:2.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to obey you, my heavenly father and to be in your grace and never experience your wrath.

A Vision September 23

Jacobs Dream

 Jacob was on his way to Mesopotamia, the first night – He lay down to sleep, resting his head on a stone. Genesis 28:11b. While Jacob slept he had a dream, where a stairway was going from earth to heaven with Angels going up and down – And there was the Lord standing beside him. “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham and Isaac,” he said. “I will give to you and to your descendants this land on which you are lying. Remember, I will be with you and protect you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done all that I have promised you.” Genesis 28:13, 15.

 Jacob awoke and knew that God had been there; he built a memorial and dedicated it to God – Then Jacob made a vow to the Lord: “If you will be with me and protect me on the journey I am making and give me food and clothing, and if I return safely to my father's home, then you will be my God…and I will give you a tenth of everything you give me.” Genesis 28:20 – 21, 22b.

 We can also rely on God for protection, food and clothing. God is our protection and even though we work and earn the money for our provisions God allows us to do so and is the provider.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “When you make a vow to the Lord your God, do not put off doing what you promised; the Lord will hold you to your vow, and it is a sin not to keep it.” Deuteronomy 23:21.

PRAYER THOUGHT: If I make a vow to you, O Lord, help me to keep it. Thank you, O Lord, for the protection and provisions that you give me.

Jacob September 24

At Laban’s

 Jacob arrived at Laban's well at watering time, Rachel arrived with the flock - He told her, “I am your father's relative, the son of Rebecca.” Genesis 29:12.

 Jacob stayed for a month. Then Laban said that he should pay Jacob for his work but Jacob was in love with Laban's younger daughter, Rachel. An agreement was made that Jacob would work for seven years, that he would marry Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel so much that the time flew by!

 The wedding celebration was held, but Jacob was tricked, when he woke up the morning after the wedding he found the consummation had been with Leah, the oldest daughter and not with Rachel!

 When Jacob asked Laban why – Laban answered, "It is not the custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the elder. Wait until the week’s marriage celebrations are over and I will give you Rachel, if you will work for me another seven years." Genesis 29:26, 27.

 Jacob received Rachel for his wife and he loved her very much, Jacob worked the second seven years for her willingly!

 Our lives go by very quickly, the love we have for the Lord, must be the reason our lives are joyful and go by so fast!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jacob agreed, and when the week of marriage celebration was over, Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife. Genesis 29:28

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank you, for all the joy and love you have given me, the meaning you have given to my life.