

Old Testament Survey
Week Four: Hebrew History – Isaac/Jacob (Gen 25-36)

The key to understanding the message and meaning of the Old Testament is to keep in mind God's overarching purpose of redemption for fallen man.

- God initiated His plan of redemption by making a promise:

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. **Genesis 3:14-15** (KJV)

- God reaffirmed His plan of redemption by making covenants (Old and New Testament)

Biblical covenant: A binding unilateral agreement between God and man, based on relationship and sealed with a sign or symbol (circumcision, baptism, Holy Spirit)

Trace the covenant, like a scarlet thread in a rope, to see God's redemptive plan

1. The covenant made with Abraham **Genesis 12:1-3**
2. The covenant made with Isaac **Genesis 26:1-3** (The promise was not given to Ishmael)
3. The covenant made with Jacob
 - ❖ The story of the birth of Jacob and Esau **Genesis 26:19-26**
 - ❖ Jacob "grabs" Esau's birthright (26:29-34) and blessing (27:1-29)

- ❖ Jacob has a dream [Genesis 28:10-17](#) (God makes covenant with Jacob)

Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.” [John 1:50-51](#) (NLT)

- ❖ Jacob marries Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29-31)
 - ❖ Jacob wrestles with the Stranger at the Jabbok (Genesis 32:22-31)
 - ❖ Jacob returns to Bethel and the covenant is renewed [Genesis 35:9-15](#)
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In light of the Old Testament presentation of the Patriarchs, what do you think Paul meant when he said, “Jacob have I loved, but Esau I hated?”

For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.” Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written (Malachi 1:2-3): “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” [Romans 9:9-13](#) (NIV)

Next Week's Assignment:

Week Five: Hebrew History - Joseph (Gen 36-50)

What is the significance of the first born son in the Hebrew culture?

How did the religion of the Egyptians differ from that of the Hebrews?