

## CHRISTIANS ARE AKIN TO JACOB

Genesis 27:1-38

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** To say that "Christians are akin to Jacob" is to mean that Christians also enjoy peculiar rights and titles. Jacob had no rights by birth, but he soon got them. He exchanged a meal he had cooked with his brother Esau for Esau's birthright. Although it was a deceitful act, Jacob did obtain the family blessing, therefore acquiring peculiar rights.

### I. LIKE JACOB, CHRISTIANS ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE PECULIAR RIGHTS AND TITLES

1. Unto them that believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, they have been given the right and power to become the Children of God.
  - Christians have a right to "enter in through the gates of the city."
  - Christians have a title to honors.
  - Christians have a promise to everlasting glory.
  - Christians have a right to call themselves the children of God.
2. As Jacob gained peculiar rights and titles upon receiving Isaac's blessing (even though it was by deceit), so Christians also have peculiar rights and titles not by deceit but by the blood of Jesus Christ.

### II. JACOB HAD PECULIAR MANIFESTATIONS FROM GOD, SO DO CHRISTIANS

1. Once at night time, Jacob lay down and slept but during his sleep, he had a peculiar manifestation - a ladder reached from heaven to earth and he saw angels of God ascending and descending, bringing mercies and help to those on earth who were God's people.
2. At Mahanaim, angels of God met him and again at Peniel where he was confronted by another angel.
3. Like Jacob, Christians have also had peculiar manifestations from God.
  - Christians have talked with God as one friend talks with his/her best friend.
  - Christians have whispered in the ear of God.
  - God has been with them at meals and they with God.
  - The Holy Spirit has appeared with great radiance in the souls of Christians, encouraging, enabling, guiding, comforting, etc.

### III. JACOB HAD MANY PECULIAR TRIALS, AND SO DO CHRISTIANS

1. Jacob had to run away from his father's house to an uncle's and that uncle cheated him all the years he was there.
  - Cheated him of his wife, of his wages, of his flocks and in every way.
  - Jacob finally ran away from his uncle who pursued him and overtook him.
  - His brother Esau whom he had cheated out of the birthright came with 400 men met him.
  - After a time of prayer he wrestled with an angelic being, injuring his hip and he had to limp the rest of his life.
  - Years later his wife Rachel died.
  - His daughter was led astray by a Shechemite.
  - His sons wiped out the Shechemites.
  - His son, Joseph, was sold to Egyptians.

- A famine came.
  - His son Reuben sleeps with a wife of Jacob.
  - His son Judah commits incest with his own daughter-in-law.
  - All his sons become a plague to him.
  - His last born son, Benjamin was taken away.
2. No man has been more tried than Jacob and all because he cheated his brother and his father.
    - All through his life God chastised him.
  3. There are many Christians who have also had to go through trials such as Jacob did.
    - However, like Jacob, they are not being destroyed or consumed, they are managing somehow.
    - God guided Jacob through all his trials and God has not changed, therefore God will be with every Christian when trials come.
  4. Jesus has suffered and gone through more trials and difficulties than any Christian will ever go through.
    - Christians do not really understand what troubles mean.
      - "Fear not," says God, "I am the Lord, I change not..."
    - Therefore Christian, you are to have trials, but will not be destroyed or consumed by them.

#### **IV. JACOB HAD A PECULIAR CHARACTER AND SO CAN CHRISTIANS**

1. Jacob was a man of faith.
  - Even though his past was not all that good and he deceived his brother and father and seemed to stay in trouble with his brother, he stayed close to God.
  - Christian are you a person of faith? Do you know what it is to walk by faith, to live by faith, to get your needs by faith?
  - Christian, is faith the rule of your life? If so, then you are akin to Jacob.
2. Jacob was a man of prayer.
  - He wrestled, groaned and prayed.
  - Christian, do you pray? Do you have time to spend with God in prayer?
    - There is time for one's desires, likes and wants but is there time for prayer and God?
    - There is a time for every purpose under heaven and no Child of God can live without prayer.
  - Christian, if you are a person of prayer, then you are akin to Jacob.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Although Jacob obtained his rights and titles through deceit, God still blessed Him.
2. Jacob lived a life of great trials, difficulties and hardships.
3. Jacob stayed a man of faith and prayer and stayed close to God.
4. Christian, how much like Jacob are you? You can be as close to God as Jacob was no matter what.