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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Vayetze – God Meets You Where You Are

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Vayetze, which is Hebrew for “and he left,” and it goes from Genesis 28:10 to Genesis 32:2.

This parashah begins with the story of Jacob settling at Bethel where he fell asleep and had a supernatural encounter with YHWH in his dreams (Genesis 28:10-22).

It also tells the story of Jacob working for Laban and marrying Rachel and Leah (Genesis 29).

Then we learn about the birth of Jacob’s children and Jacob prospering at Laban’s expense (Genesis 30).

The parashah concludes with the story of Jacob and his family fleeing from Laban (Genesis 31).

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re just going to present a thought about God meeting us where we are at.

If there’s anything we’ve learned about Jacob by reading his story in the Torah, it is learned that he is someone who strives, struggles, and manipulates to get what he wants.

Jacob seems to be the kind of guy who looks out for number one—that is, himself! He was able to convince his brother, Esau, to trade his birthright for a bowl of stew. And he even deceived his father into giving him Esau’s blessing. This led to Esau threatening to kill Jacob! Thus, Jacob had no choice but to leave home and escape to his uncle Laban’s.

That brings us to Jacob’s dream. On his way to Laban’s, he settled at a place that would soon be called Bethel, he found a rock to lean against, and fell asleep. As Jacob began to dream, he saw “[a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it](#)” (Genesis 28:12).

Then, above the ladder, the God of the universe begins to speak to Jacob. YHWH promises to fulfill His word despite the trials that Jacob is facing. He promises that Jacob and his children will indeed inherit the land that God promised Abraham. YHWH then concludes this encounter with a personal blessing to Jacob:

Genesis 28:15

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

What's amazing about this blessing is that Jacob didn't have to strive for it. He didn't steal it or manipulate someone else to get it. Despite all the shady things Jacob had done in his life, God met him where he was and gave him the promise of His love—the one thing in this world that cannot be taken, stolen, or strived for on our own. Indeed, God brought the ladder to Jacob and met him where he was.

In the New Testament, Yeshua the Messiah expounds on this powerful dream given to Jacob:

John 1:51

And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

Yeshua the Messiah—the Son of Man—is our ladder to God. There's nothing you can do to buy this ladder. It cannot be traded or obtained through manipulation. Even if you work fourteen years like Jacob did for Laban, you cannot earn this ladder. God's love, fully manifested in His Son, is a gift that we can either choose to receive or turn down.

The significance of a free gift is that it gives the receiver of the gift no opportunity for boasting in his own talent or strength. As Paul says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We all need to hear that and be reminded. God's love is available to you—right now. All you have to do is open up your heart and receive it. Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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