

Handout 1: Genesis Lesson 13

- Jacob was 15 years old when Abraham died.
- Jacob left Canaan and spent 20 years in Haran.
- He was 130 when he went into Egypt with his family and spent the last 17 years of his life there.
- He was 147 when he died in Egypt.

God continued the 3-fold Abrahamic Covenant:

First Generation	Second Generation	Third Generation
Abraham	Isaac	Jacob
Land: 12:2; 15:7, 18; 17:8; 22:17	Land: 26:3	Land: 28:13; 35:12
Descendants 12:2; 15:4-5; 17:2-6; 22:17	Descendants: 26:3	Descendants: 28:14; 35:10
World-wide blessing 12:2; 22:18	World-wide blessing: 26:4	World-wide blessing: 28:14

There are 3 “well encounters” between a man and a girl in the Pentateuch: the Unnamed Servant and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, Moses and Zipporah. Each encounter has the same basic elements:

1. The man travels to a distant land.
2. He arrives at a well.
3. A girl comes to draw water at the well.
4. The man approaches the girl and speaks with her.
5. The girl returns to her people to tell them what the man has told her.
6. The man is introduced to the girl’s people.
7. The girl becomes the bride of a bridegroom.

Three repeated events point to a fourth event with the same elements that is significant in salvation history. The fourth event will be Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman which contains the same seven elements except it is Samaria that Jesus is courting as His bride.

Jacob/Israel’s twelve sons and one daughter

LEAH’S SONS and daughter	Leah’s servant ZILPAH’S SONS	RACHEL’S SONS	Rachel’s servant BILHAH’S SONS
Ruben #1	Gad # 7	Joseph #11	Dan #5
Simeon #2	Asher #8	Benjamin #12	Naphtali #6
Levi #3			
Judah #4 +			
Issachar #9			
Zebulun #10			
Dinah*			

* = daughter; + = bearer of the “promised seed”

Handout 2: Genesis Lesson 13

The theophany at Bethel is a “type” of Jesus Christ:

Bethel in Genesis 28:12-18	Jesus
Bethel was a gateway between heaven and earth.	Jesus said: <i>I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe</i> (Jn 10:9).
Bethel provided access to God.	Jesus is the only access to the Father (Jn 14:6) and the mediator between God and men (1 Tim 2:5) who gives free access to the Father by one Spirit (Eph 2:18)
Angels were sent as ministering spirits.	He sends His angels as ministering spirits to serve those who will inherit salvation (Heb 1:14).
Bethel was a “ladder” to heaven.	Jesus said to Nathaniel: <i>In all truth I tell you, you will see heavens open and the angels of God ascending and descending over the Son of man</i> (Jn 1:51). <i>The Cross is the only ladder to heaven</i> (St. Rose of Lima).
At Bethel heaven and earth were joined and time was suspended.	In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in 30 AD is present on the altar; heaven and earth become joined and time—past, present and future, is suspended in the perfect sacrifice of the Redeemer Messiah.
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God does not choose “perfect” men and women to accomplish His plans—for all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God (Rom 3:23; New American Bible).

1. God chooses men and women to serve His purpose. He makes the best use of that imperfect human resource, each of whom has the free will choice to rise to a greater spiritual height or to miss the mark. He even chose pagan pharaohs and kings (the Egyptian pharaoh of the Exodus, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and Cyrus of Persia) to fulfill His plans.

2. There is no assurance that those who God uses to fulfill His plans will be ultimately saved; Jesus chose Judas but he rejected his divine election. Everyone receives a special call to salvation, but of their own free will every man and woman accepts or rejects that call. A person may be useful in serving God’s plans in this life but fail to accept the gift of salvation by remaining free of sin in order to receive the gift of eternal life in the next life when all sins are laid bare before God judgment throne (Rom 2:12-16; Rev 20:11-12).

3. That Scripture accurately records the strengths and failures of the biblical heroes and heroines with such candor is a testament to the truthfulness of Sacred Scripture. Men and women are imperfect and are susceptible to sin. It is God the Holy Spirit who calls men and women to righteousness, but it is a righteousness that must be lived daily with a continual renunciation of sin and a continual turning back to God. The record of the lives of the people in Sacred Scripture are a lesson for us all (1 Cor 10:11-13).