

The Excellence of Jacob

by Pastor Bryan Hudson

NOTE: This is a very important message from God's Word. Have ears to hear:

Matt 13:12 (NLT), *To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.*

2 Chronicles 20:14 *Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah...15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.**"*

Scriptures for message, *The Excellence of Jacob*

"Jacob I have loved, Esau I have hated..." (Mal. 1:1-3)

"He will choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah." (Psa. 47:4)

"The Lord will restore the excellence of Jacob." (Nah. 2:2)

A. Through Jesus, God has restored the excellence of Jacob. (Ps. 47:4)

1. "Jacob I have loved, Esau I have hated..." (Mal. 1:1-3)
 - a. What did God love and hate about them?
 - b. Since these men are both long dead, their lives symbolized a spiritual truth.
2. Jacob was God's example of excellence.
3. Esau despised his birthright (Gen. 25:29-34). He had no regard or appreciation for the position in which God placed him. He rejected his divine destiny for material satisfaction. He was a profane person (Heb. 12:16) Esau was a symbol of indifference and a lack of devotion

B. Jacob's story is told in Genesis 25:29-34, 28:11-17; 32:1-2; 32:22-28.

1. Jacob was a picture of God's idea of excellence. (Mal. 1:1-3)
2. Jacob is a picture of one who responds to God in every way. One who will do whatever it takes to follow Jesus Christ. One determined to keep the commands of God. (Gen. 25:22-26)

- a. Jacob literally means “one who takes the heel” because when his twin brother, Esau, was born, Jacob had hold on his heel during the delivery. Jacob also means “supplanter” (replace). He replaced profane with excellence
 - b. This is what God loved about Jacob, he was excellent and aggressive concerning the things of God. Jesus said, “the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.” (Matt. 11:12) In Luke 16:16 He said, “The kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.”
3. In three visitations of God, Jacob responded in every one:
- a. When he was going to Haran, he saw something other people could not see. He saw a ladder with angels ascending and descending (Gen. 28:11-17). He said, “**How awesome is this place!**” He called it Bethel meaning “The House of God.”
 - b. When the angels met him as he returned from Laban. (Gen. 32:1-2) He called that place Mahanaim meaning “God’s Camp”
 - c. When he was on his way to meet his brother, he wrestled with the Lord all night and refused to let go until He blessed him. The encounter left his hip out of socket and with a change of name. His name was changed from Jacob to Israel (Prince of God) “for you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.” (Gen. 32:22-28). He called the name of that place Peniel meaning “face to face with God.”

C. Four Keys to developing excellence in life and ministry:

1. KEY ONE: We are God’s tools, His weapons of war.
 - a. “You are My battle-ax and weapons of war: for with you I will break the nation in pieces; with you I will destroy kingdoms.” (Jer. 51:20)
 - b. We need sharpening, (Eccl. 10:10) *If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength; But wisdom brings success.*
 - c. *EPH 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”*
2. KEY TWO: Know your sphere and function within it. (2 Cor. 10:12-15)
6. KEY THREE: Focus on the treasure within, not the vessel (2 Cor. 4:7)
7. KEY FOUR: Favor excellence over mediocrity
 - a. Phil. 1:9, “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10) that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,”