

The Reward

⁴⁶ Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I’m disgusted with my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth like these women, from the daughters of the land what is life to me?” ... ¹ So Isaac called for Jacob, blessed him, commanded him and said to him, “Don’t take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.” ² Get up, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother’s father, and take for yourself a wife from there, from the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother. ³ Now may El Shaddai bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you so that you will become an assembly of peoples. ⁴ And may he give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your seed with you that you may take possession of the land of your sojourn, which God gave to Abraham” (Gen 27:46; 28:1-4).

In *Parashat Tol’dot Esau* disregards his parent’s admonition about marrying “Hitti” women. *Esau* was concerned only with himself and with those things that brought him personal satisfaction – one more Biblical example of children indulging in what the world has to offer using the resources (at the expense) of the parents. This is a reminder of **what the parents allow in moderation, children excuse in excess!** But here we see how easily *Isaac* is persuaded to send *Jacob* away – and not because he dislikes his son. *Isaac* is old, but he is not in his deathbed yet. In fact, he will live many more years. What parent would send away one of his sons in his later years? But the mere thought of potentially more of the same behavior from *Jacob* as from *Esau* would not only kill *Rebekah* but also ultimately kill *Isaac*. However, *Jacob* is set to obey immediately. What reward does this obedience bring? It will bring the favor and blessing of God.

Let us consider the reward in detail: “May El Shaddai (*The Almighty*) bless you.” This immediately reveals a *God* that can do everything – nothing is impossible with Him. Then, “(May He) make you fruitful and multiply you so that you will become an assembly of peoples.” *Jacob* will have many male children. He doesn’t even yet have a wife! His offspring will become diversified people. *Jacob* receives the Abrahamic blessing – destined to be the father of many nations and posses the land of Israel. Scripture tells us that: “⁸ Then Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan were contemptible in his father Isaac’s eyes. ⁹ So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael Abraham’s son, Nebaioth’s sister for his wife, besides his other wives.” How many of our children do precisely that: ‘here, I’ll show you what I can do...’ But the correct action is to obey parents first, before doing it your own way first: “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long upon the land which Adonai your God is giving you.” Or “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “so that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth” (Ex. 20:12 & Eph. 6:1-3). *Jacob* is probably sad having to leave everything that means anything to him – home, parents, family, comfort. But we know the rest of the story. When he sees *Rachel*, it is all forgotten. *Jacob*’s obedience to his parents brings none other than his beloved *Rachel*, a large family and prosperity. *God* gave him everything as prophesied in his father’s blessing. I believe the same is true today – young people reap great promises and rewards by the simple act of obedience to their parent’s *righteous* instructions.

The reward of obedience is a fulfilled and prosperous life with a companion from the Lord by your side and many children to enjoy the blessing with. But it does not end there – it becomes the conduit for *God* to work out His everlasting plan with you as His instrument. Almost everything *Jacob* does from this point forward becomes prophetic. And it all seemed like a *few days* to *Jacob*! Even double or nothing for her was worth it!

The Iniquity of the Parents is Visited by their Children

Abraham sowed iniquity with respect to lying and deceiving – could *Adonai* (whom he knew could raise the dead) not also protect *Sarah* from Pharaoh and *Abimelech*? Is it necessary to lie and to deceive? Was it necessary for *Isaac*, like his father, to lie about his wife? Was it necessary for *Jacob* to lie and deceive *Isaac* in his old age? Do we serve a wimpy *God* who cannot deliver our loved ones or cannot keep His promise to us? This is the basis of the deceiver’s (*Satan*) plan for us. Since “without faith/trust it is impossible to please *God*” (*Heb. 11:6*) *Satan* prompts us to mask our trust and to doubt Him. We are driven to act on our fears that *God* is not able, that He does not care, that He does not deliver on His promises. We erroneously believe that nothing is

going to happen unless we intervene. And so we fall victim to our unbelief and displease Him. In the process, we are responsible for altering the roads of life. It is true that we will ultimately accomplish His Will for us if we submit to His Sovereignty, but do we suffer consequences! Could the 12 tribes not be born of Rachel, instead of from 4 different women? Did our father Jacob not suffer for his fraud? Will we not also suffer if we get involved in knavery? Will God not bring about what He has promised if we obey the righteous will of our parents?

The Almighty's Will is not hidden from us – we do not have to guess anymore about what He wants for our lives. He wants us to *sh'ma* – to prove that we heard His Word by our actions. This is called obedience. Our ancestors said: "*Na-aseh V'Nishma*" (see Ex. 19:8 and 24:3) – "*all the words Adonai has spoken, we will do and we will obey.*" Unlike our forefathers who were hearing His Words for the first time, we have an advantage – we have His written Word and His *Torah*. So we need not be deceived anymore – we can live our life according to His Will. These are not my words or your parent's words – these are *Adonai's* Words! Scripture has given us the benefit of having an absolutely reliable roadmap for our lives – will you obey and reap a great reward?

Scripture tells us about the cyclic nature of life in Eccl. 3:15. We can break this cycle of iniquity because *Yeshua* said: "*Amen, I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*" (Matt. 17:20 and Jer. 32:17) Again He repeated: "*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*" (Matt. 19:26). *Mary* was told in Luke 1:37: "⁷*For nothing will be impossible with God*" and in Luke 18:27: "²⁷*What is impossible with men is possible with God.*" Do you get the picture? We can! You can! I can! Say it with me: "*I have overcome by the blood of the Lamb, by the words of my testimony ...*" (Rev. 12:11). "*I can do all things through Yeshua who strengthens me!*" (Phil. 4:13) It is time to break the cycle of consequences that plague our walk with the Lord. There is great reward awaiting us if we obey. We can, with His Spirit by our side and with His strength change the course of history. I challenge us to rise and become the generation of over-comers. We are that generation by faith.