

Sabbath Blessing (Part 2 of 2)

“Claiming the Heritage of Jacob”

I. SCRIPTURE

Genesis 27:28-29 – “Therefore may ELOHIYM [God] give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!”

II. ELOHIYM [GOD]’S FAIL-SAFE [Conditional] PROSPERITY PROMISES

After last week’s service, I received feedback that maybe I was preaching a prosperity message. “Yes!” I did! And... “yes!” I am going to again today! Last week, I pointed out four (4) Bible promises that YAHUAH [God], that ELOHIYM [God] has provided to us as His children, as *rightful* heirs to His Kingdom. Each one of them provided you with *His* promises... that we can obtain abundant riches *if* our minds are fixed on Him, and *if* our hearts are filled with a *first* true love for Him.

Anyone who felt that maybe I was pushing the “High Life” without conditions, probably missed the key points made I made last week: that each of the four (4) God-breathed promises that are provided to you *did* indeed have conditions. These conditions can be summed up in this way: that in order to obtain the material and spiritual “things”, the “health”, and *all* else that you desire... all of those that was and is promised to you by God, must be in the “**seek ye first the kingdom of YAHUAH [God] and His righteousness** [frame of mind], **and [then] all these things shall be added to you**” (Matthew 6:33). Yes! The *condition* is that you must be seeking “*first*” the Kingdom of YAHUAH [God] *in order to* claim His promises!

These YAHUSHA [Jesus]-spoken words and the four (4) promises of blessing that were provided to you last week are not much different than the words of the scripture we discovered during our mid-week service not too long ago in second Corinthians: that “YAHUAH [God] is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for

every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). The tendency in hearing these type of fantastic promises, is that we focus on the “you’s (twice spoken in this passage), and the “all”’s in “all” grace and “all” sufficiency... and the “always” in “always” having “all”, and the word “abundance”, and the “every” in “every” work... when the tendency should be that “you” should not focus on the “all”’s, the “always”, the “having all sufficiency” and having “an abundance” is for every good work! But instead we should be focused on that these are all for doing every “GOOD” work, not any of “your” works: works that are not deemed “good” by YAHUAH [God]’s standard! Yes, dear **“Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. [It is because of Who you are, that] Thy kingdom come; [and that] Thy will be done...”** (Matthew 6:9b-10a) ...and... not my own “imperfect” will.

In fact, this text and the promise that is quoted in 2 Corinthians 9:8 follows verses 7 and 8 which says “... he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for YAH [God] loves a cheerful giver.” So yes! Our YAH [God] is able and willing to make *all* grace abound toward you, that you, *always* having *all* sufficiency in *all* things and having an *abundance*... is conditional *that your* every work is God-good, and not your-good, and you are willing to give *all* that you possess – all your money, all your stuff, all your time and attention, and yes... even your life for Him, and for others in doing *good* works toward Him, and toward them! And any and all of this at the very instant that ELOHIYM [God] commands it.

“Now [when] a certain ruler asked Him, saying, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ YAHUSHA [Jesus] said to him, **‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, YAHUAH [God]. You know the commandments: “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not bear false witness,” “Honor your father and your mother.”’** And he said, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth.’ So, when YAHUSHA [Jesus] heard these things, He said to him, **‘You still lack one thing. [And here it is:] Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’** But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.” (Luke 18:18-23)

Yes, dear brothers and sisters in MESSIAH [Christ]. You will have all, more than you will ever need or desire, when you have the heart and the will to readily give it all away for Him, because you love God and you will to do His good work.

III. PROMISES TO SABBATH-KEEPERS

“If you keep your foot from breaking the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of YAHUAH [the LORD] honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in YAHUAH [the LORD]; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and [I will] feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of YAHUAH [the LORD] has spoken.” (Isaiah 58:13-14)

Here again, we have yet another extravagant promise from YAHUAH [God] Himself, but... it is conditional. Notice that these two (2) promises from Him in the text quoted, that the **“riding on the high hills on earth”** and being fed **“with the heritage of Jacob”** promises... start out with the word **“If”**, and conclude with the word **“then”**.

Did you know that an **“If-Then”** statement is a **“Conditional”** statement? Do you know what a conditional statement is? Well, just to be certain, this is the definition per Wikipedia: **“Conditional sentences are sentences expressing factual implications, or hypothetical situations and their consequences. They are so called because the validity of the main clause of the sentence is conditional on the existence of certain circumstances, which may be expressed in a dependent clause or may be understood from the context.”**

So, this means that the extravagant Isaiah 58:13-14 promise is this... that:

1. **“If... you keep your foot from breaking the Sabbath,**
 2. **“If... you don’t do your [own] pleasure on His holy day,**
 3. **“If... you call the Sabbath a delight,**
 4. **“If... you call the holy day of YAHUAH [the LORD] honorable,**
 5. **“If... you [actually] honor Him,**
 6. **“If... you don’t do your own ways,**
 7. **“If... you don’t seek your own pleasure, and**
 8. **“If... you don’t speak your own words”.**
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1. **“Then... you will delight yourself in YAHUAH [the LORD],**
 2. **“Then... He will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and**
 3. **“Then... He will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father”.**
 4. **And... you can take these promises to the bank, “for the mouth of YAHUAH [the LORD] has spoken [it]”.**

IV. THE “HERITAGE OF JACOB”

What is the “Heritage of Jacob”?

When YAHUAH [God] appeared to Jacob in a dream at a place that Jacob later named Bethel, YAHUAH [God] said to him, "the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also, your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed *all the families* of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 28:13-14). And yes, all of the families of the earth include you and me.

Then again, when YAHUAH [God] appeared to Jacob a second time at Bethel, YAHUAH [God] said to him, "your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name". So, He called his name Israel. God also said to him: "I am EL SHADDAI [God Almighty]. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land" (Genesis 35:10-12). And yes, your nation can become one of the company of nations.

But even previous to God’s blessings, Jacob received his human dad’s blessing – one that had been intended for Esau – after the instigation of a conniving mother. And, also in keeping with his own devious nature, Jacob robbed his brother Esau of the blessing that Esau was entitled to, because Jacob exploited the weakness of their dad Isaac because he was old and blind.

Today’s scripture from Genesis 27:28-29 is the word-by-word account of the blessing that his father Isaac bestowed on him. And this is it: “therefore may ELOHIYM [God] give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!”

Although Isaac soon learned that he had been duped by Jacob, he could not retract the blessing. Words could not be easily withdrawn then as they are today. Isaac’s blessings were charged with the power of YAHUAH [God], who does not make mistakes. (Earlier Esau had demonstrated an indifference to his inheritance when, in a moment of intense hunger, he sold his birthright to Jacob for some stew and bread [Genesis 25:29-34]). The promise made to Jacob was YAHUAH [God]-backed and in accordance with the plan of Him who said: "Jacob

I have loved; but Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness"(Malachi 1:2-3). By both YAHUAH [God] AND Isaac, these promises to Jacob were therefore irrevocable.

Together, they provide vital clues to the meaning of "the heritage of Jacob".

A. THE MATERIAL HERITAGE

The material inheritance of Jacob included everything that YAHUAH [God] had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as the added blessings provided to just Isaac. These consisted of:

1. The land of Canaan and conquest of lands owned by Israel's enemies, in "I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am YAHUAH [God]" (Exodus 6:8).

Referring to the great works of YAHUAH [God], the psalmist stated, "He defeated many nations and slew mighty kings – Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan – and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to Israel His people" (Psalms 135:10-12).

The land was to be Israel's permanent inheritance. YAHUAH [God] had said to Jacob that He would "give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession" (Genesis 48:4).

2. An innumerably large family from which would come nations, spreading in all directions. (Genesis 28:13-14, 35:11-12, and 48:4),
3. Blessings by YAHUAH [God] and to those who blessed Israel, and a cursing to those who cursed YAHUAH [God]'s chosen people (Genesis 27:29),
4. Abundant supplies (Genesis 27:28); and,
5. The high esteem of other nations (Genesis 27:29).

These by themselves would have caused Jacob's posterity to be the envy of all nations, but they are only the beginning!

So to Jacob, later called "Israel", together with the promises that YAHUAH [God] had previously given to Abraham and Isaac, were given these three (3) promises:

1. land,
2. innumerable descendants, and
3. blessings that would encompass and be of benefit to the whole earth.

These by themselves would have caused Jacob's posterity to be the envy of all nations, but they are only the beginning!

B. THE SPIRITUAL HERITAGE (through Wrestling & Prevailing)

John Gill in his commentary on this verse said that "the sons of Jacob – and not Ishmael the son of Abraham, nor Esau the son of Isaac – inherited the land of Canaan". Gill added that the more significant reason was that Jacob "is the father of all true Israelites, who are, as he was, wrestling and prevailing".

Jacob had three divine revelations - once at Peniel (Genesis 32:28) and twice at Bethel (Genesis 28:14 and 35:10). Of these, he was twice told that his name would be changed to Israel – no longer would he be called 'the supplanter' but instead a name that would indicate he had striven with EL [God] and had prevailed.

Several meanings have been attributed to this name, but the reason given in Genesis 32:28 is the most dependable". Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with YAHUAH [God] AND with men, and have prevailed".

Jacob was provided a fresh start:

1. By wrestling with and prevailing over the 'angel' of YAHUAH [God], he had moved on from the level of prevailing over mere mortals to having a special relationship with the Almighty.
2. With Jacob and his family moving to Egypt at the time of the famine, the stage was set at his death, and for the fulfilment of the prophecy of Israel becoming a nation. His twelve sons became the foundation stones of YAHUAH [God]'s specially chosen nation, which was named after their father Israel.
3. It was from the line of Judah, Jacob's fourth son that the Son of YAHUAH [God], our Redeemer and Israel's promised Messiah, was born (which the world has just celebrated through the Christmas holiday).

The significance of Jacob's family throughout Bible history and prophecy transcends that of any other family. During the rest of the Old Testament, Israel grew to be a special people and nation. But there was one outstanding prophecy that did not happen in the Old Testament era. The nations of the earth had still not yet been fully blessed through this special nation. It is here that we will discover the uniqueness of Jacob.

There is something extra special about Jacob. In him, YAHUAH [God] showed that He is capable of transforming the roughly cut stones of human nature and elevating them to be useful vessels for His purpose and glory. Jacob *the cheat* became *a prince* whom YAHUAH [God] blessed to be father of YAHUAH [God]'s special family. Jacob's supremacy over his older brother Esau from birth, his blessing from his father Isaac, his encounter with the Angel of YAHUAH [God], the change of his name, his two meetings with YAHUAH [God], and his spectacular posterity that includes our Messiah YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Jesus Christ]... all give proof that in spite of his faults, he had been chosen and blessed by YAHUAH [God].

V. CONCLUSION

Dear brothers and sisters, today are you struggling with your humanity? Are you struggling with your natural human wants and desires? Like Jacob, are you struggling with a name and reputation... human traits that you inherited... maybe struggling with your pride and willfulness too? Maybe you are struggling because you are a product of the neglect or malpractice of one or even both of your parents... or like Jacob, maybe you left your family behind because of something that either you, your parent (or parents), or all-the-above had done, that affected you? Or maybe you were cheated by someone close to you, like Jacob was cheated by his uncle Laban, who had to work fourteen (14) years to possess someone that he loved? Maybe you, like Jacob, have wrongfully attempted to seize a heavenly blessing, maybe a heavenly entrance into the Kingdom through an unsanctified back door? Claiming an inheritance to which you are not yet entitled to... because your heart is not yet right with YAHUAH [God]? Maybe you have love toward your Savior, and your God, but... maybe you don't yet have that "first-love" for Him? That "first-love" type of love, that gives you a true love and will where you would readily – without a split-second hesitation -- give your all for Him?

Yes, your every action, your every thought should be God-good, and you should be willing to give *all* that you possess – *all* your money, *all* your stuff, *all* your time and attention, and yes... even *all* of your life for Him, at the very instant He commands it.

If the picture of yourself is anything short of the what YAHUAH [God] intends for you to be, then I appeal to you now to claim the Heritage of Jacob! Let's enter the wrestling match now with the 'angel' of YAHUAH [God]. Let pray and supplicate [beg] for the Grace and righteousness of His Son YAHUSHA [Jesus] – as the early Christians did in the upper room – so that we will transcend by moving on from the level of just prevailing over mere mortals... but that we can and will prevail even with YAHUAH [God] Himself... by building a new, special relationship with the Almighty through a rebirth in His RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] as He and His Son have willed (in John 17).

My hope and desire for each of you today is taken from the words of our MESSIAH [Christ], that you will fall today on The Stone where you will be broken. And that you accept His inheritance, eternal riches. That you do not instead, let Him falls upon you, where you will be ground into to powder and the kingdom of YAHUAH [God] is taken from you and given to another nation Israel – who was formerly known as Jacob – that bear the good works of it (from Matthew 21:43-44).

Now, I pray that YAHUAH [God] will bless each and every one of you as you leave this place today, as you determine to stay on the path He sets before you—each day from now, into the new year, and into your new and eternal “first-love” relationship with Him.

Amen.

VI. MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Great is Your Mercy”, Donnie McClurkin;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjn5aaGqyFU>

Credits:

- 1 “The Heritage of Jacob” March 30, 2016 @ 3:30 blog, Liberty Community Sabbath Church; <https://www.libertysabbath.org/apps/blog/show/43889082-the-heritage-of-jacob>
- 2 “Conditional sentence”, Wikipedia; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conditional_sentence