

The Path to Happiness

Divine Principle Lecture Series

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Lecture 26

The Providence Centered on Abraham's Family III

SLIDE 1

Welcome back to the path to happiness. I'm your host, Dr. Tyler Hendricks.

→ In our last session, we came to know the heart of Abraham and Isaac, and the price they paid, with God, to save this world and all its families. This history reveals that God has a plan, and that love and oneness with God will always lead to life.

→ But God was not done with Abraham, as we will see as we look at what happened with Isaac's family in this session.

SLIDE 2

God led Isaac to marry a special woman, Rebekah, and she gave birth to twins, Esau and Jacob.

→ To build the "foundation for the messiah" in this family, however, Esau and Jacob had to be placed in the divided positions of Cain and Abel and, in that position,

→ fulfill the "indemnity condition to remove the fallen nature" and lay the foundation of substance.

SLIDE 3

Esau and Jacob in Isaac's family were like

→ Cain and Abel in Adam's family and

→ Shem and Ham in Noah's family, so they faced a special challenge to overcome hatred and win the victory of love.

→ The explanation is found in Genesis, starting in chapter 25.

SLIDE 4

Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah

→ gave birth to twins, and

→ they fought, even in the womb (Genesis 25:22-23).

SLIDE 5

What's more, even when they were in the womb, God said

→ He loved Jacob and

→ hated Esau.

→ He divided them into the positions of Cain and Abel wherein the elder related to evil and the younger related to goodness.

SLIDE 6

The firstborn was red at birth, and his entire body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. His

younger brother came out grasping Esau's heel with his hand, so he was named Jacob. (Genesis 25:25-26)

SLIDE 7

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. (Genesis 25:27-28)

SLIDE 8

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from hunting, famished. Esau asked for the stew, and Jacob said he would give it to him in exchange for his birthright. Esau readily agreed, so he valued his birthright as less important than bread and a pottage of lentils, food for his hungry stomach.

→ The Bible says that Esau "despised his birthright." (Genesis 25:29-34)

→ Thus Jacob gained the firstborn-son position from Esau.

SLIDE 9

In the Old Testament, the birthright of the firstborn son is the position of

→ the head of the family. He is the one who

→ inherits the father's blessing. He is

→ in charge of all the family's household matters (2 Chronicles 21:3) and

→ has also the right to inherit the property. (Deut 21:15-17).

SLIDE 10

As days passed, Isaac became old and was almost blind. He would die soon so he decided it was time to give his formal blessing to his eldest son. He was passing on the blessing he had received from Abraham, the blessing that was given by God.

→ He called his firstborn, Esau, and said, "go out to the field and hunt game for me; and prepare a savory dish for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die." (Gen. 27:3-4) Esau left right away to hunt for some game.

SLIDE 11

Rebekah overheard Isaac's words, and she called Jacob and said, "You should receive the blessing that Esau will inherit" and told Jacob to "Go out to the flock and get a good lamb. I will make a good stew so you can give it to your father and receive his blessing."

→ But Jacob worried, "But I do not have hairy hands like my older brother and if father finds out, he would not give me blessing but instead curse me."

→ His mother then said to him, "My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say... (Gen. 27:13)." This is how great her love for her son was.

SLIDE 12

She then prepared the food Isaac loved, took Esau's best clothes and put them on Jacob, and covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with goatskins. Then she gave Jacob the food and the bread she had made and told him to serve his father. Jacob did so, and went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said,

→ "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau (Gen. 27:22)." Isaac blessed him with all his heart,

→ "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and people bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed" (Gen. 27:27-29)

→ This is how Jacob, who had purchased the position of the firstborn-son, became the heir and inherited the blessing of the firstborn-son.

SLIDE 13

Soon after that, Esau came to Isaac to be blessed, but Isaac could no longer give the first-born's blessing to Esau. Esau wept loudly, became angry, and determined to kill Jacob after Isaac's funeral.

SLIDE 14

What was Jacob to do? Again, his mother advised him well. Rebekah arranged for Jacob to dwell with her brother, his uncle Laban, in Haran, to find a wife and live until Esau's anger cooled.

→ Laban had two daughters, Leah, the older, and Rachel, the younger.

SLIDE 15

Jacob fell in love with the beautiful and charming Rachel.

→ He told Laban that he would work for seven years to gain Rachel's hand.

SLIDE 16

After the seven years, Laban deceived Jacob and tricked him into marrying not Rachel, but Leah.

→ Jacob went to his uncle and asked why he deceived him and was answered, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one."

→ He then promised to labor for another seven years for Rachel, and after a short time he was able to marry Rachel.

SLIDE 17

→ Leah gave birth to Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, four sons, one after the other. However, Rachel could not conceive and was so unhappy.

→ Rachel then gave her servant, Bilhah, to be Jacob's concubine and give them a child.

→ Bilhah gave birth to Dan and Naphtali.

→ Leah became jealous and gave her servant, Zilpah, to Jacob as a concubine.

→ Zilpah then gave birth to more sons, Gad and Asher.

→ Then again, Leah gave birth to sons, Issachar and Zebulun.

→ Rachel challenged her older sister. She demanded Jacob to give her a child, and Rachel conceived a child named Joseph.

SLIDE 18

Jacob offered another seven years of labor, and God blessed him with abundant wealth of servants and flocks of sheep, camels and donkeys. But his heart always was to reconcile with his brother, Esau, so he left Haran for Canaan with his wives, children, servants, and livestock.

SLIDE 19

Laban discovered his departure after 3 days. Rachel took Laban's idols with her and hid them from her father. In this way, Jacob triumphed over the satanic world, represented by Haran, after offering 21 years of drudgery in his fight to restore the birthright. After winning this victory, Jacob returned to Canaan.

SLIDE 20

→ Jacob learned that his brother Esau organized 400 soldiers and was waiting for him. Jacob then wisely prepared for meeting his brother Esau.

→ First, he prepared gifts of his servants and his flocks in two groups. He put each type of animal in the care

of a servant, and

→ said to them to tell to his older brother Esau that, “They belong to my lord Esau, a gift from your servant Jacob, and he is coming behind us.” (Gen. 32:13-19)

SLIDE 21

That night, he wrestled with an angel at the ford of the river Jabbok. The angel broke Jacob’s hipbone through that fight, but Jacob wouldn’t give up. Daybreak came and the angel had to leave. But Jacob said that he wouldn’t let go of the angel unless he blessed him.

→ In the end, the angel blessed him and said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and man and have overcome.” (Gen. 32:28)

→ From his name Jacob, which means, “He who supplants,” his name was changed to “Israel” which means “God’s prince” because of his spiritual victory.

SLIDE 22

Jacob first sent his gifts, then his two female servants and their children, then Leah and her children to face Esau. Lastly, he positioned Rachel and Joseph at the rear. Each offered themselves as gifts from Jacob. Finally came Jacob, who bowed down to Esau seven times as he approached. Thereupon, Esau came running and embraced Jacob; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him; and they both wept.

→ Jacob introduced his family and said, “If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably.” (Gen. 33:10)

SLIDE 23

Esau, who meant to kill Jacob, was able to love and welcome his brother in this way because of Jacob’s wise behavior. (Gen. 33:4)

→ Because they became united as one, they fulfilled the indemnity condition to remove the fallen nature. Thus, they were able to lay the foundation of substance.

SLIDE 24

Thus in Abraham’s family, the foundation of faith and the foundation of substance set

→ the foundation for the messiah.

Why did not the messiah come?

SLIDE 25

It was because the family foundation was inferior to the power of the surrounding society, which was already centered on Satan and could easily overpower Abraham’s family. Therefore, the messiah could not be able to come until that foundation expanded.

→ In addition, because of Abraham’s mistake in the symbolic offering,

→ his sin had to be indemnified by his descendants by means of 400 years of slavery in Egypt.

SLIDE 26

On the positive side, Jacob’s success meant Isaac’s success, and Isaac’s success meant Abraham’s success, so the providence of restoration centered on Abraham, though extended to Isaac and Jacob, came to be regarded as having been accomplished in Abraham’s own generation without any prolongation.

SLIDE 27

That is why it is written,

→ “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” (Exodus 3:6)

→ This verse indicates that although they were three generations, God regarded them as one generation that was able to accomplish His will.

SLIDE 28

→ We have learned that the providence of restoration can be achieved only through both God's and humankind's portion of responsibility. Because Abraham as the central figure could not fulfill his portion of responsibility, his mission was extended to Isaac and Jacob.

→ We also learned that even if the smallest mistake in laying the indemnity condition is made, such as the failure to cut the birds, its restoration requires of a greater indemnity condition.

→ Lastly, we also learned that in our life of faith, we also have to put ourselves as an offering and separate the good and evil within us.

SLIDE 29

We see principles at work in the courses of biblical figures, creating discernible

→ patterns of events. This helps us understand how

→ God is working in our times and in our lives personally and as families, and about

→ the meaning of the Bible. In our next session, we will expand our horizon from these ancestral families to the courses of Moses and Jesus, and this will give us a clue as to

→ what to expect at the time of the Second Coming. Thanks so much for listening, and may God add a blessing to your studies.

Session 26

Restoration



The Providence of Restoration in
Abraham's Family III

Foundation for the Messiah
centering on Isaac

Isaac and Rebekah

Esau

Jacob

Cain

Abel

The indemnity condition to remove the
fallen nature—foundation of substance

Adam and Eve
Noah and his wife
Isaac and Rebekah

Cain
Shem
Esau

Abel
Ham
Jacob

Challenge to overcome hatred and
win the victory of love.

Biblical record after Genesis 25

Isaac's 'Haran' Course

Isaac weds
Rebekah in
the land of
Haran—first
cousin.

Rebekah
conceived
twins when
Isaac was 60
years old

Esau and
Jacob fought
even while
inside the
womb
(Genesis 25:22-23)

God

Hated

Loved

Esau

Jacob

Position of Cain;
tied to evil

Position of Abel;
representing good

The first came forth red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they called his name Esau.

Afterward his brother came forth, and his hand had taken hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Gen 25:25-26

Esau

Skillful hunter

Man of the field

(Isaac loved Esau)

Jacob

Quiet man

Dwelling in tents

(Rebekah loved Jacob)

Esau despised his
birthright. Gen 25:29-34

Jacob bought the
first-born son
position



Birthright of the Old Testament Age

"Right of the firstborn-son"

1. Serves the role of the head of the family
2. Inherits the father's blessing
3. In charge of the household 2 Chr. 21:3
4. Inherits the family property Deut. 21:15-17

Passing on the blessing of God given to Abraham.



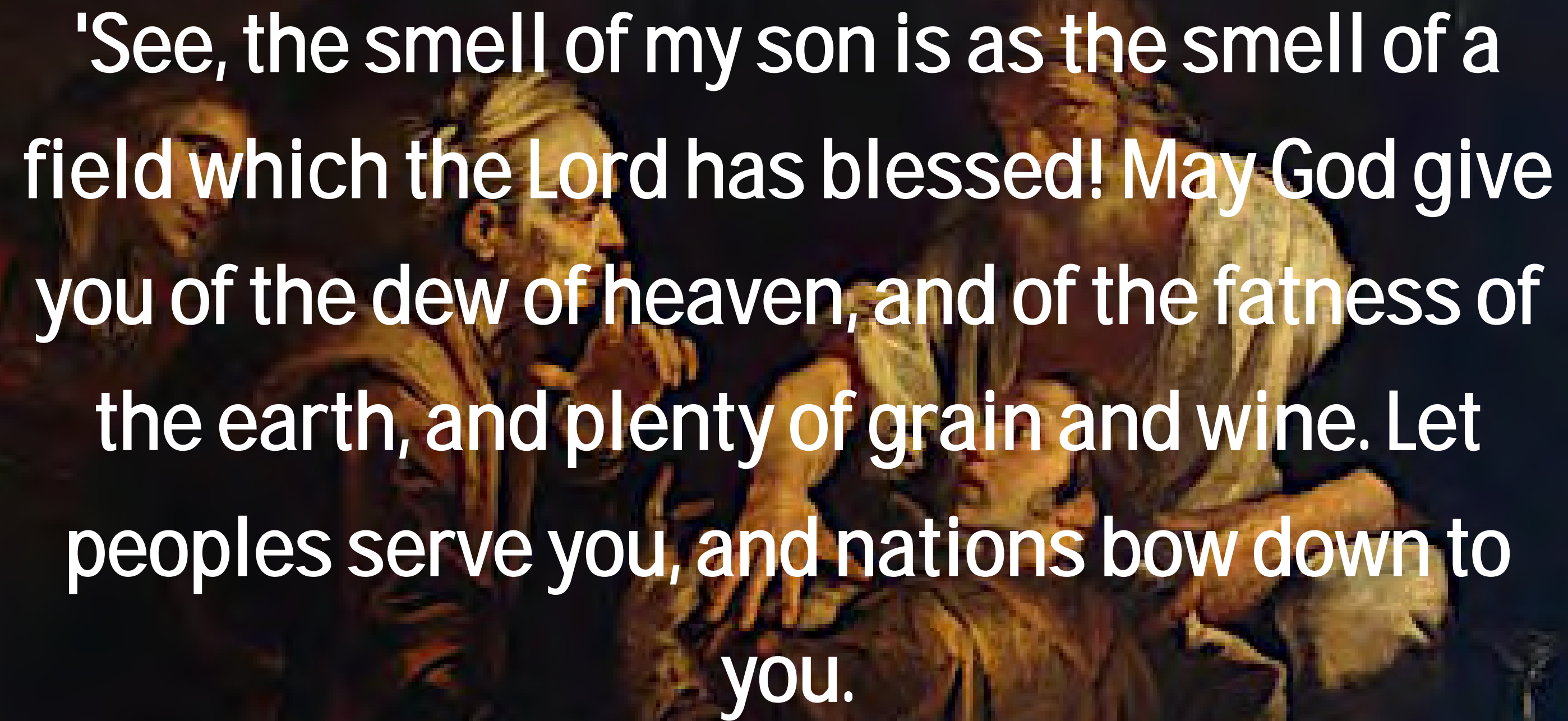
Hunt game for me, and prepare for me savory food,
such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat;
that I may bless you before I die.

Go to the flock, and fetch me two good kids, that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he loves; and you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.

...my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him, and bring a curse and not a blessing.'

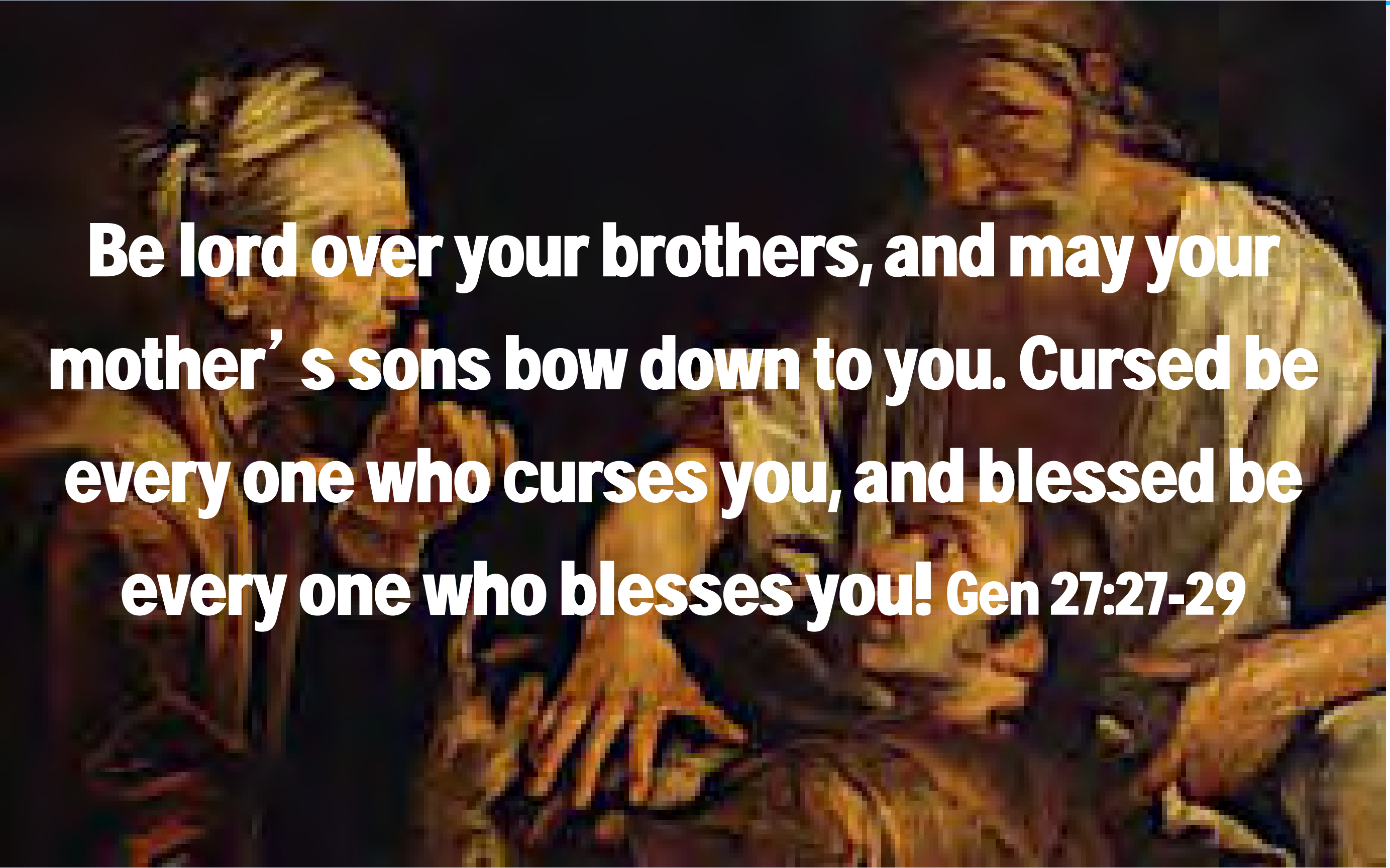
Upon me be your curse, my son; only obey my word, and go, fetch them to me. Gen 27:13



A painting depicting a scene with several figures, likely a biblical story, overlaid with text. The scene shows a group of people in a dimly lit room, possibly a dining or meeting room. In the foreground, a table is set with a plate of food, a glass, and other items. The figures are dressed in period clothing, and the overall atmosphere is dramatic and somber. The text is overlaid in white, bold font, reading: 'See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed! May God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you.'

'See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed! May God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you.'

What Jacob purchased, he now inherited.



Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be every one who curses you, and blessed be every one who blesses you! Gen 27:27-29

The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.



As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, Esau returned and asked for his blessing. Isaac had no other blessing to give. Esau resolved to kill Jacob after Isaac's death.



Rebekah arranged for Jacob to dwell with her brother, his uncle Laban, in Haran. Laban had two daughters, Leah, the older, and Rachel, the younger.



Jacob fell in love with Rachel.

He told Laban that he would work for seven years to gain Rachel's hand.



Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah.

“It is not our custom.”

Jacob promised seven more years for Rachel.

Leah

- 1. Reuben
- 2. Simeon
- 3. Levi
- 4. Judah
- 9. Issachar
- 10. Zebulun

Rachel

- 11. Joseph

Jacob

Zilpah

- 7. Gad
- 8. Asher

Bilhah

- 5. Dan
- 6. Naphtali



Jacob's course in Haran

- Had served his uncle Laban for 14 years
- Served seven more years, his heart with Esau
- So he departed Haran for Canaan



Rachel stole her father's idols and hid them from him.

Jacob's wisdom in meeting Esau

1. Jacob knew that Esau was coming to meet him with an army of 400 men.
2. He sent ahead his servants and flocks as gifts to Esau.
3. They belong to your servant Jacob; they are a present sent to my lord Esau; and moreover he is behind us. Gen 32:13-19

Jacob wrestled with an angel at the ford of Jabbok



Jacob = "he who
supplants"
Israel = "God's
prince"

"Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but
Israel, for you have striven with God and with
men, and have overcome." Gen 32:28



...to see your face is like seeing the
face of God. Gen 33:10



Esau was able to love and welcome his brother.
This removal of the fallen nature set the condition
for the foundation of substance.

Abraham's family
Foundation of Faith
Foundation of Substance

The Foundation
for the Messiah

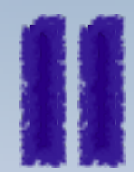
Why did the Messiah not come?

**Messiah could come only upon a
societal level foundation**

**Abraham's failure at the symbolic
offering**
(Did not divide the dove)

**400 years of slavery as an
indemnity period remained**

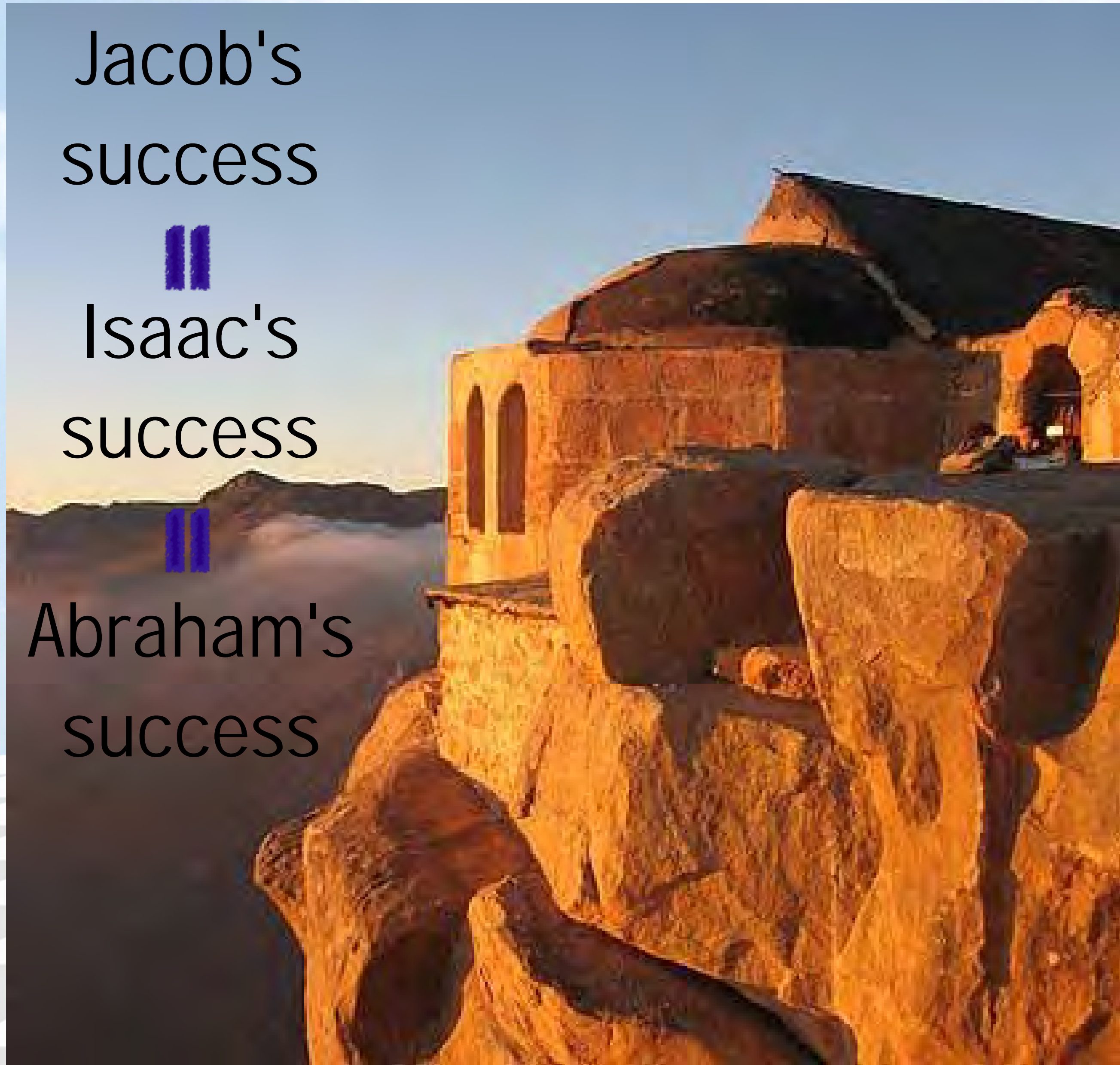
Jacob's
success



Isaac's
success

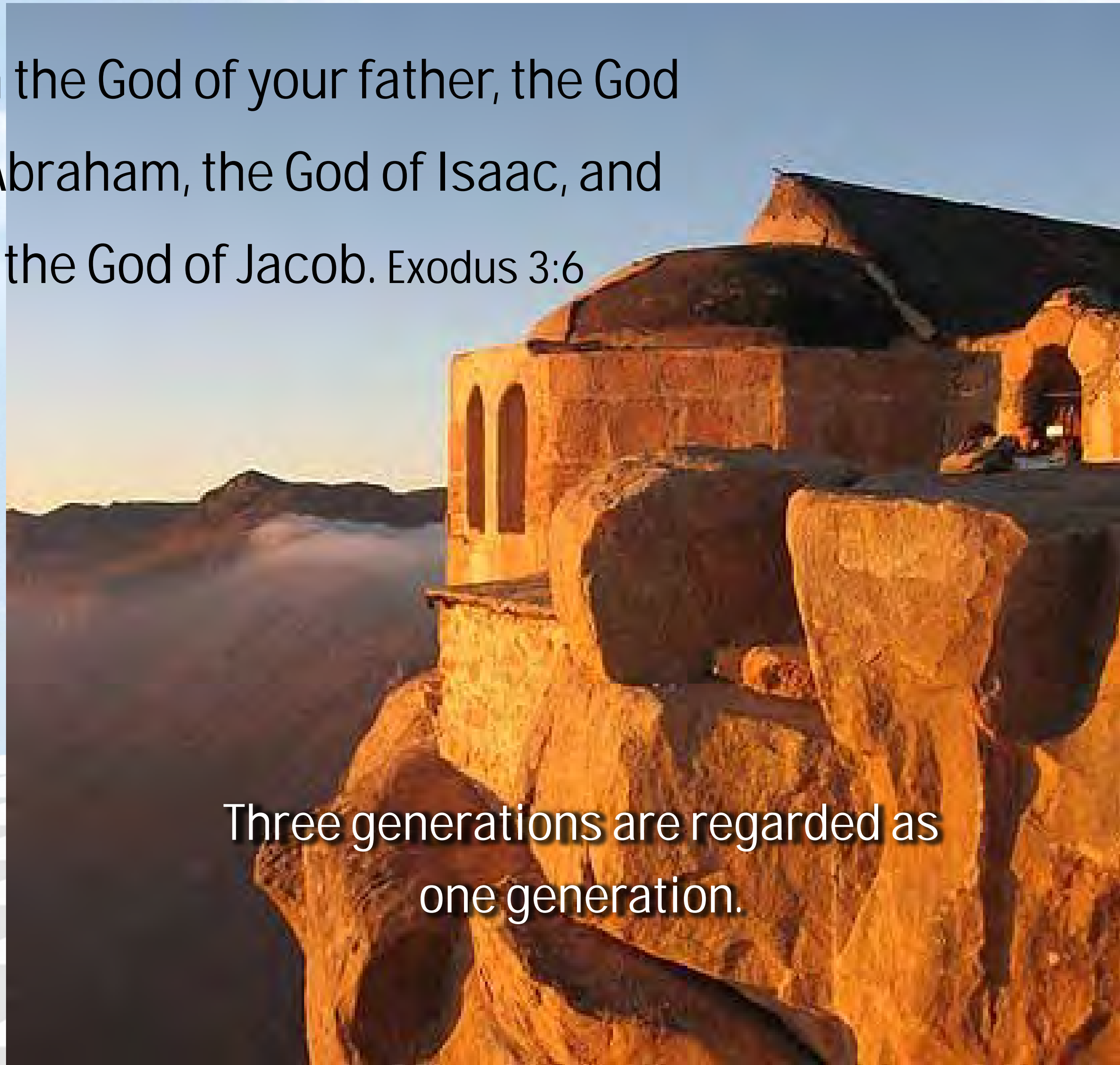


Abraham's
success



I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Exodus 3:6

Three generations are regarded as one generation.



Lessons from Abraham's family

1. The providence of restoration can be achieved only through both God's and humankind's portion of responsibility

2. A small mistake in laying the condition means greater condition is required for restoration

3. In our life of faith, we have to put ourselves as an offering and separate the good and evil within us

Patterns of events

How God works in our lives

The meaning of the Bible

What to expect at the Second Coming

