

THE VISIONS OF JACOB

(Genesis 28;10-22; 31:1-13; 32:22-32; 35:1-7)

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Jacob was a man who faced many tough problems and had many shortcomings. But God helped him. How and why?

How did God help?

God was his Mentor

Through His Spirit God spoke to Jacob and trained him to act in a way that ensured his success. Jacob gained confidence and favour the more he listened to God. Today, the Bible is a treasure for us to learn from God. Moreover, God could train and advise us directly through His Holy Spirit.

Ex 4:15 "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do."

Deut 6:1 "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess..."

Ps 32:8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."

God was his Guarantor

God guaranteed safe passage for Jacob. God ensured that his entire household had sufficient provision even in times of famine. God was Jacob's redeemer. This is also our own experience as we trust our life to God through Jesus Christ.

Jer 50:34 "Their Redeemer is strong; The LORD of hosts is His name. He will thoroughly plead their case, That He may give rest to the land, And disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon."

God was his Protector

God protected Jacob wherever he went. It was clear that Jacob was a person with a special relationship with God because of the covenant God had with Abraham. As Christians, we have a special relationship with God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

1Sam 7:3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

2Kgs 17:39 "But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

Why did God help?

God helped Jacob at all times because of:

◆ The covenant with Abraham

Gen 17:7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you."

◆ God is the Father of the fatherless

Ps 10:14 "But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless."

Ps 68:5 A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

◆ God is the Sustainer of foreigners

Zech 7:10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.'

◆ God is the Rewarder of those who serve Him (see Heb 11: 6)

◆ God is forever merciful and compassionate (see Ps. 145:8-9)