



GOD

is greater
than

GOD > deception

Genesis 29:1-30

(page 21 in chair-rack Bibles)

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God > deception

(1) Out of evil came good, out of ugliness, beauty.

(2) He who turns to evil, will, at the end, find it turned against him.

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Even though it might look like God's people may experience His blessing in their lives, God will effectively discipline them by making them painfully aware of their unresolved sins.

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1. Those who feel that God is working in their lives are inspired to enthusiastically serve others.

A. God is faithful to open up doors to fulfill His promises (v. 1-6)

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Genesis 28

"Hinneh"

Genesis 29

v. 12: ladder

Setting

v. 2: a well in the field

v. 12: angels of God, ascending and descending

Attendants

v. 2: three flocks of sheep lying by it (lazy shepherds)

v. 13: the Lord was standing above it

Focus

v. 6: Rachel was coming with sheep

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A. God is faithful to open up doors to fulfill His promises

God opening doors to Abraham's servant in Genesis 24:11-33

He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.

He said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.

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Genesis 24:11-33

"Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'--may she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master."

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Genesis 24:11-33

Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.

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B. When we know it's from God, we can serve others enthusiastically

Vs. 7-14

Have you ever felt called by God to do something hard?
Were you obedient?

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2. God's divine design despite our dysfunction (v. 15-30)

Isaiah 40:21-22

"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in."

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A. We can naively pursue God's blessings and forget our unresolved sins. Vs. 15-20

Two Daughters

Older: LEAH

Younger: RACHEL

Two Sons

Older: ESAU

Younger: JACOB

In both cases, the older is standing in the way of Jacob's plans

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**B. God's people often find their sin
coming back on them to discipline them**

Vs. 21-30

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4 Reminders from Jacob's past

1. Jacob accuses Laban of "deceiving" him.

Vs. 25, cf: Genesis 27:35

2. Laban's explanation of the "firstborn."

Vs. 26, cf: Genesis 27

3. Motif of serving figures.

Vs. 18, cf: Genesis. 27:29

4. Both Isaac and Jacob could not see.

Vs. 25, cf: Genesis 27:1

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“That Laban secretly gave the unloved Leah to the man in love was, to be sure, a monstrous blow, a masterpiece of shameless treachery... it was certainly a move by which he won for himself far and wide the coarsest laughter.”

(von Rad, Genesis, p.291)

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Sowing & Reaping

Numbers 32:23

“Behold, you have sinned against the LORD,
and be sure your sin will find you out.”

Galatians 6:7

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for
whatever a man sows, this he will also
reap.”

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Can we abandon our own strategies and trust ourselves entirely into the hands of God to fulfill His promises?

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REFLECT as you look into these questions in your own life.

- What is the unresolved sin in my life that I am afraid of coming back to get me?
- Have I been living chapters of my life without God?
- What do I need to do today to resolve my past and my sin and get right with the Lord?

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Response at the Stations

Prayer

- There are people available to pray with at our prayer booth in the back.

Communion

- We have elements of the bread and the cup as you remember Christ's death.

Giving

- You may bring your gift of offering before the Lord to the stations.

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