

Old Testament Sermon Outline No: 6

From Cheat to Leader of a Nation

(Story of Jacob)

Textual context: Genesis 25-32

Introduction

Jacob as rightly named means "Supplanter"

His scheming ways occurred even before he was born. "His hand took hold of Esau's heel" (Gen 25:26). Right at the beginning he was fighting to replace the eldest with himself. However, God later changed his name to Israel meaning "he perseveres with God"

Especially known in Scripture Israel Inherited the covenant promise initially given to Abraham who he passed in to his twelve sons who in turn headed the tribes of Israel.

1. Influences upon the man Jacob

Background - a twin with Esau

Father and Mother - Isaac and Rebekah.

Special baby- An answer to a father's prayer (Gen25:21).

Favourite son of his mother

2. Jacob's behaviour:

Took possession of

(a) His brother's birthright. Gen 25:29-34

(b) His father's blessing Gen 27:11-31

(c) His father's flocks and herds Gen 30:25-43 & 31:1

3. Summary of what he was a personality:

(a) A cheat,

(b) Schemer

(c) Currying favour with his mother

(d) Against his father

(e) Not to be trusted.

4. God's input to Jacob's life that introduced change

At Bethel – The House of God (Gen 28:10-22)

5. Result of encounter

- (a) He made the Lord His God.
- (b) Agreed to tithe
- (c) Bore the marks of his encounter with God - A limp
- (d) Name changed
- (e) Became the father of Israel

The difference between Saul and Jacob was that Jacob allowed God to change him rather than he himself change.

When he had promises from God he acted upon them the way God wanted him to.

The challenge

Have we made the Lord our God?

Do we give to God's work?

Do we bear the marks of an encounter with God in our personality and character?

Our names are now written in the Book of Life. Does our behaviour indicate this?

Are we becoming a father or mother to new converts?