

## IS YOUR GOD BIG ENOUGH?

Lincoln Park Baptist Church, West Newton, Massachusetts  
March 21, 1965

Scripture – Genesis 26:10-22

### Introduction:

The story of how Jacob stole Esau's blessing and met God on his way to Paddan-Aram.

1. Isaac, old and blind, calls Esau, his firstborn. Asks him to prepare a savory meal from the game of the field; then he will bless him before dying.
2. Rebecca, Isaac's wife, hears the story and plans to obtain the blessing for Jacob, her favorite son.  
The scheme: Jacob to go to the flock; Rebecca to prepare savory food from the kids to be brought.  
Problem: Esau hairy; Jacob smooth.  
Rebecca prepares the meal, dresses Jacob with Esau's garments and disguises his lack of hair by putting the skin of the kids around his arms and neck.
3. Jacob goes before Isaac.  
Jacob – "My father."  
Isaac – "Here I am, who are you, my son?"  
Jacob – "I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that you may bless me."  
Isaac – "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"  
Jacob – "Because the Lord your God granted me success."  
Isaac – "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau, or not. ... The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. Are you really my son, Esau?"  
Jacob – "I am."  
So he did not recognize him but blessed him.
4. Esau comes from the field to bring his meal. (Gen. 27:4) *"Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself: 'The days of mourning for my father are approaching, then I will kill my brother Jacob.'"*
5. Rebecca plans to send Jacob away to her brother Laban. *"Stay with him for a while until your brother's anger turns away."* Then she asked Isaac to send Jacob to her father's house to get a wife.

5. Jacob on his way from Beersheba to Haran (Gen. 28:10) sees a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and angels ascending and descending, and God above it. *“I am the Lord, the God of Abraham, your father, and the God of Isaac.”* This God promised Jacob the land.

The terrible awareness of God’s presence on the part of Jacob. He awakes from his sleep after hearing: (28:15) *“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you.”*

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said: (28:16) *“Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.”* And he was afraid, and said: *“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”*

I. Jacob found that God cannot be limited to geographical boundaries.

- A. Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.

He was running away from meeting responsibilities at home. But God is ahead of him and makes him an instrument of his purposes. He got the assurance of his protection, the promise of the land.

This is too much for him. He is afraid: *“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”* God came to him in consolation and promise, when he should have come in judgment.

- B. This has been the experience of the missionaries as they have gone into the mission field. God is there ahead of them.

- (1) Jonah and the people of Nineveh. The people repented and he was sorry that God was at work as he was on his way.
- (2) Experience in Africa and some other places.
- (3) God prepares the heart of Lydia as she hears Paul preaching at Philippi; also the heart of the jailer.
- (4) Social revolution in America being brought about by the Negro civil rights movement.
- (5) God is working in the lower classes of India and China and in Latin America. These lower classes are beginning to respond. This is the way changes have come in all ages.

II. Is your God big enough to stand above the nation?

- A. The God of the O.T. The prophets of the O.T. believed in a God who was bigger than their nation. They can see the other nations as vehicles of God’s wrath against his

people. *“Assyria rod of my anger.”* This is important in our age of growing nationalism. Will Christian people see beyond the nation?

- B. God is even beyond the nations – (Isaiah 40:17) *“All the nations are nothing before him; they are counted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.”* (40:28) *“The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.”*

III. Is our God big enough to handle our troubles? How many times have we despaired of God? How many times, when faced with doubts, troubles and tribulations, have we said: Where is God? Is he dead? How many times, when faced with the unanswerable questions of life, have we said: Life has no meaning.

But hear Paul, when in jail and faced with the possible sentence of death: (Phil. 1:19) *“For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I shall not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*

Plenty and hunger: (Phil. 4:12) *“I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and in all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.”*

#### Conclusion:

How big is the God whom you know? Is He the one who is always ahead of you? Is He the God and Father of our Lord Jesus? Is He the one who now operates through the Holy Spirit?

Let us pray that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ might reveal himself to you in new dimensions of love and understanding.

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