

# Sheepfold Gleanings

## VAYISHLACH / HE SENT

Genesis 32:4 to 36:43

Obadiah 1:1-21

1 Peter 1:9 to 2:12

### Jacob's life: Part Three

#### Prologue:

Looking at the earthly realm (Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil) versus heavenly realm (the Tree of Life) through the life of Jacob we see that he ran from Esau and in his agony of being sent into the wilderness away from his family he reached for the rock to put his head on. Jacob reached for YHVH, the Rock of our salvation to ease his mind/soul. Doing this, coming out of the earthly nature, revealed a heavenly realm Jacob had not seen before: A spiritual staircase where heaven and earth met. Given heavenly eyes, YHVH was showing Jacob there was a better way, but Jacob needed to “translate”, he could walk in the heavenly nature “today” and see/walk in YHVH's kingdom but he must be finished with his earthly nature before this could happen. This is called a change of status or being born again. When we walk in the Tree of Life it is a walk of sanctification, righteousness, holiness and faith.

Jacob left that place of decision and continued on in his “earthly” nature. He worked for Laban; seven years for Leah and another seven years for Rachel. When the time came for his return to “the Land” he could go no further as he was still walking in his earthly nature/kingdom. YHVH stopped him and wrestled this point with him all night. Finally Jacob surrendered his earthly nature and came to the end of "himself". Jacob ultimately surrendered his will to YHVH and began to walk in a heavenly nature. Doing this released him to return to the Land as the only way we can return to the land is by holiness in YHVH's heavenly nature. By doing this the enemy no longer has any hold or rights on us. When Jacob translated he received a new name - Israel.

#### Jacob Returns

After farewells to Laban, Jacob continued home with his family to the land he grew up in. He was concerned about what lay ahead. The past was still before him and it was necessary he deal with it to make right his deceitful ways. After twenty years away, Jacob had no idea what his brother Esau's reaction would be. Would Esau still want to murder him? Would he and his family be at risk and fear for their lives or would all be forgiven? All this lay before Jacob as he progressed closer to home. While on his way, *angels* met him. They were heavenly messengers sent from YHVH to encourage and strengthen him before meeting Esau. Jacob was so awed by the sight of the *two camps* of angels that he said, “This is the camp of YHVH” and named the place Mahanaim meaning *two camps* (Genesis 32:2).

**Hebrews 1:14** “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation (deliverance)?”

Mahanaim is on the Jabbok River, a tributary leading to the Jordan River in the Transjordan region. Jacob knew that all he had was from YHVH and that YHVH had truly blessed him. There was a double meaning in the name Mahanaim as his two wives and their children were also two camps. This was prophetic of the actual two camps or Houses that would come from Leah and Rachel called the House of Israel and the House of Judah. There was something still lacking in Jacob and he needed to deal with it before he could cross over to meet his brother Esau and more importantly before he could enter the land. Thus the angels served a dual purpose: First, preparing Jacob to meet his adversary and secondly, ministering to him the necessity of dealing with his heart before YHVH.

Jacob's time at the Jabbok River was a living parable and prophetic of how we are to give our lives over to YHVH following our deliverance/salvation. A word picture of this is that of catching a fish. Is a fish already gutted and cleaned when caught, or is the fish first hooked, reeled in, brought on board *and then* gutted and cleaned? Many people expect new believers to be squeaky clean when they come to YHVH because Yeshua's blood covers them, making them automatically clean at that point. Right? Wrong! We will soon see this is not the case. Many of us are in the boat but have not been gutted and cleaned yet. The Messiah died for us while we were *still sinful* (walking in unrighteous ways). Abraham was uncircumcised when he received the Covenant. So were we. We are not circumcised when we come to our Savior. Rather our hearts are circumcised **AFTER** we come to Him. By the process by progressive revelation and a walk of redemption in Yeshua, this leads to a circumcised heart, a heart that is no longer after self or blocked but totally surrendered to service in Yeshua.

**Romans 5:8-10** "But YHVH demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Yeshua died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from YHVH's wrath through him! For if, when we were YHVH's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

Salvation is a word often used in Scripture that sums up several works of the *Ruach HaKodesh*/Holy Spirit. For this study we are focusing on two parts. Yeshua in Hebrew means Salvation. Salvation also means YHVH's Delivery, YHVH's Deliverer and YHVH's Power. So when we come to salvation and give our heart to Yeshua for the first time, we experience a heart connection like Adam and Eve had in the Garden. Our spirit life is joined to THE Spirit Life, Yeshua. This is *Salvation of the Spirit*.

For *Salvation of the soul* we use another word picture. Now that we have gas (THE Spirit) in the car, does that car have an engine (soul)? The vehicle we are given is called "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Many of us have never gotten into this new creation but try and put the old creation (the fleshly, worldly desires and behaviors) into the new creation and wonder why the vehicle is faulty or does not run right. Yeshua tells us we cannot put new wine into an old wineskin. New wine goes into a new wineskin (heart) (Mark 2:22).

Even though we are redeemed, we need to take off our old sinful nature (Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil), those sinful desires and emotions that govern our soul, before we can put on the new nature (the Tree of Life). No, we cannot put new clothes over old clothes. This just won't

work. We must take the old off! Many of us have never taken off our old nature and have never experienced the new nature YHVH has blessed us with. Many of us have not been taught *how* to take off our old nature and end up dragging it around until we are so tired of it and so is everyone else! The only way we can take it off is to surrender all to YHVH and have Him circumcise our hearts. This is called *Salvation of the soul* and this is what Jacob was coming to.

**1 Peter 1:9 to 2:3** “...for you are receiving *the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* Concerning *this salvation,* the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the *Spirit of Yeshua in them* was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Yeshua and the glories that would follow. It (salvation of the soul) was revealed to them (the prophets) that *they were not serving themselves but you,* when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind (the sinful nature). Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk (Torah, YHVH’s teaching and instruction), so that by it (Torah), you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that YHVH is good.”

**Revelation 19:7** “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and *his bride has made herself ready.*”

We are made up of three parts: body, soul (*nephesh* - #1395a) and spirit (*chai nephesh* - #1395). The spirit is joined with YHVH but the work of the soul (the seat of our will, emotions and desires) must come into agreement with the Spirit of YHVH in our hearts. This is the work YHVH has asked US to do. There is no obstacle preventing us from preparing our soul for YHVH. If there is, the obstacle is usually in our thoughts. Our job is to choose to take responsibility over it, repent and mikvah/wash for a change in status to come into unity with Yeshua and what He has done for us at His death and resurrection.

Like Jacob, it is time for us to meet our Creator and deal with our past. We must leave all our possessions –that which separates our heart from YHVH. *Idols* may be hidden in the possessions or passions of our heart and we may not recognize them. But YHVH does. We may be clinging to idols like old memories, prestige or pride. Tragedies or hurts may have severed our heart at one time causing walls and kept us from claiming the new wine. We may be walking around as a victim, been betrayed or wounded in the heart. Even though we have been believers a long time the pain of those memories may still be very evident making us imprisoned and even tormented by our past. We have yet to experience true redemption and the healing of the Messiah where He died to take the pain of those memories and situations away so we could enter into the rich new inheritance waiting for us. Some may be harboring unforgiveness from those trials by chewing on them which invites a bitterroot spirit with judgments and accusations against people or ourselves. This can be stored in our hearts for years causing emotional outbursts of fear, control, jealousy, defense, hatred, slander and discord. If unattended, they can lead to physical illnesses and even death. These circumstances can add up to govern our lives and color our world causing behaviors and words that bring division instead of healing. This is called the fruit of the sinful nature and must go. There are some of us who never let go of these, holding them dearer than the new life offered us from YHVH.

Will we forsake all to follow YHVH? Or have we bound YHVH up so much that He cannot be seen or heard in our hearts? Are we so controlling of our lives that we have replaced YHVH's guidance by making up our own Torah to follow? Do we walk in denial through study of theology, or by becoming so consumed by business or perfectionism that those "hurt" areas are well hidden. Or do we accumulate material goods rather than spirit life? That is eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (death), and not from the Tree of Life (Life). It looks good and smells good, but can this life raise the dead and heal the sick? If YHVH is preparing a royal priesthood and a holy nation, how are we inviting Him into our lives? This is called *salvation of the SOUL*. This is the salvation Jacob was about to meet. Circumcision of the heart is salvation of the soul. Let us be a people—like Jacob—who cry out for our repentance and for YHVH to circumcise our heart. Let us wrestle with our soul, surrendering it to Yeshua and then not letting go until He blesses us. New life is found here. This is the new wineskin for the new wine. Why hold on to the old? There is no life in old attitudes and behaviors, only decay and death. Life is only found in Yeshua. The sooner we understand this, the sooner we can have *true life*. May we join Jacob at the river and wrestle out the old nature to enter into the new life Yeshua died to give us.

**Romans 7:5** "For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death."

**Romans 7:18** "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

**Romans 8:8** "Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."

**Romans 8:13-14** "For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

### **Genesis 32 Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau**

The last lesson ended with YHVH sending divine messengers to Jacob. We are not told if angels were common for Jacob to see, but we do see he assigns them the job of taking a message to his brother Esau in Edom in preparation of the brothers' meeting. Jacob is full of fear in respect to the past and so has the messengers share about his possessions and material wealth, hoping this would help satisfy any difficulty between them. When the angels return, they report that Esau was indeed coming to meet Jacob and with him are his possessions, a company of four hundred men. Jacob's fear of impending retribution increases in his heart (Genesis 32:6).

Fear is rooted in unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment. Jacob had not surrounded his life and all that he had to YHVH yet. This report about his brother caused Jacob great fear and torment. Taking matters into his own hands, Jacob divided his people and animals with him into *two groups*, saying, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape." Only after doing this did Jacob seek YHVH. Jacob reminded YHVH He had said, "Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper." Then Jacob prayed, "I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff (the Tree of Life, the Torah) when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become *two groups*. Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me and also the mothers with their children. But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted'" (Genesis 32:9-12).

Jacob had to face his past, one of trickery and deceit, in order to go forward. Fear continued to be Jacob's driving force and, after praying, he prepared a gift for his brother. Dividing the animals into five groups (symbolic of grace in the Torah, the five books of Moses), he instructed his servants that when the time came to meet Esau they were to go before him offering him gifts and saying, "Your servant Jacob is coming behind us." Jacob was trying to appease his brother with these gifts.

In Genesis 3 we learned that after man fell in the Garden his desire to please YHVH was replaced with a desire to achieve by his own efforts and please man. If it looks good to us, we offer *our righteousness* and think this is acceptable to YHVH but it is really from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and is as filthy rags before Him. We do not recognize YHVH's righteousness; instead we offer YHVH our own worldly offerings and works (our righteousness), not what He desires (Isaiah. 64:6).

These habits were woven into Jacob's very character, having been passed on through the iniquities of past generations. Nothing but a presence-to-presence encounter with YHVH could change him. Jacob could no longer use his own planning and ways; these are not acceptable to YHVH. YHVH had more for Jacob and Jacob needed to have a heart change. Before this could happen Jacob first had to die, not physically but spiritually his sinful earthy nature had to die. What we are about to witness in Scripture is the death of a trickster and a deceiver, and the birth of a prince of YHVH; a man after YHVH's own heart.

With the gifts in place he settled down for the evening. During the night Jacob woke and took his two wives, his maidservants, and his eleven sons across the Jabbok River. Then he sent all his possessions over. Jacob had come to the place of emptying. Jabbok means *pouring out* and *emptying*. With his family and possessions gone, Jacob was alone. He realized that his human abilities were not enough. His diplomacy, his works, his riches and all the things he had accumulated could not save him.

Jacob had come to the place of self-emptying, a place called Jabbok, where every human resource was given up so that YHVH could replace them with His Life. He gave up trying to do everything in his own strength. He gave up trying to pretend. Now he was ready for an encounter with YHVH. There was nothing wrong with using brains and talents but true anointing comes from a surrendered life to YHVH, and the infilling of the *Ruach HaKodesh*/Holy Spirit that controls our lives, instead of our self-effort. This is the new wineskin and the new wine offered us. This was what Jacob reached out for. This meant he had to give up all sense of human security to get it. He had to release everything.

When Jacob was left alone, *a man* wrestled with him until daybreak. Near the end, the man saw that he could not overpower Jacob and he touched Jacob's socket so that his hip was wrenched. The man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

Notice that Jacob was in the wilderness and he was asleep. Many people find themselves in a wilderness experience after choosing to follow after Yeshua. You can go one of three ways in the wilderness. Many people have fallen asleep and not progressed further as many have not been taught what the wilderness is all about. Some have entered the wilderness and missed the

blessing and then cried to return back to Egypt. These two ways characterize the paths we should not follow.

The wilderness is a place of circumcision followed by empowerment for those who pursue this third choice. Circumcision is on an individual basis, while one is alone with YHVH. It is not something other people can take you through. Prayer line-ups, conferences, speakers and other well meaning circumstances can help and even enable, but they cannot produce anointing oil for our lamps. They can also prevent us from taking that final step of being alone with YHVH, as many people can become dependant on an enabler to get them through and not look to Yeshua as the Savior of their *soul*.

It is just a one-on-one, face-to-face encounter with our Creator that moves us from the Outer Court experience of the Tabernacle to the ministry of the Inner Court. Nothing of our selves (the sinful nature) follows us when we enter into the Holy Place. We must be circumcised and sanctified (*holy*) to enter the Tabernacle and epitomize a royal priesthood and a holy nation. This is what the wilderness experience is all about, and this is the ministry and destiny given us from Yeshua (Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9).

The oil of anointing and spirit life comes from a sanctified life, one of holiness.

Sadly, many reach this point (the wilderness) and turn back under the pressure, not allowing YHVH to have ownership of their lives. They never fully give themselves over to the King of Kings. Thus ministries stall and even die, as much of the Outer Court ministry is self-life and a product of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Yeshua's Life is *in* the Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. That is the goal of our hearts if we surrender and empty ourselves to YHVH, the giver of LIFE, and let Him fill us with His life!

“Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law/Torah. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our *salvation (of the soul) is nearer now than when we first believed*. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us *put aside the deeds of darkness* (the sinful nature) and *put on the armor of light* (fruit of the spirit life in Yeshua). Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, *clothe yourselves with Yeshua the Messiah*, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature (the flesh)” (Romans 13:10-14).

Who was this man Jacob wrestled with? We are told it was YHVH. But no one has seen YHVH, as YHVH is Spirit. We are told in John 1:1 and in John 1:14 that the Word was YHVH and that the Word became flesh and dwelled among us. This man whom Jacob wrestled with till dawn was YHVH in the “flesh,” Yeshua Ha Mashiach/the Messiah.

The man said, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but *Israel*, because you have struggled with YHVH and with men and have overcome” (Genesis 32: 25-29).

YHVH wanted Jacob to make sure he knew who he was before blessing him. YHVH uses trials to take our potential and make it actual so He can elevate us to a new spiritual level in Him. The problem is many of us do not know who we are, as many of us have lost our identity and do not know that we are Israel – not merely “*spiritual Israel*”, but *part of physical Israel*.

Jacob learned to surrender everything to YHVH. What he gained was *salvation of his soul*. He came into a place of intimacy with the Messiah. The *Day of the Lord* had come upon Jacob/Israel. We cannot come away from a face-to-face encounter with YHVH and not be changed forever. Jacob “walked” differently from that moment on, and we will too!

“So Jacob called the place Peniel (meaning turn to YHVH), saying, ‘It is because I saw YHVH face to face, and yet my life was spared’” (Genesis 32:30).

### **Genesis 33 Jacob Meets Esau**

When day broke, Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with four hundred men. Jacob took his children and divided them up into two groups among their mothers. He himself went on *ahead* and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. But Esau *ran* to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.

The sense of this is that Esau was not as genuine and pure of heart as Jacob was at this reunion. Esau noticed that behind Jacob were all these women and children and he inquired after them. As Jacob introduced his family, his wives and his children come and bow down before Esau. Last to come was Rachel with Joseph. Benjamin was not born yet and was the only one who did not bow down to Esau.

Then Esau inquired of all the flocks sent to him before Jacob’s arrival. Jacob shared that this was to *find Esau’s favor*. The gift of these flocks was set up before Jacob’s wrestling match and heart circumcision with YHVH. YHVH now tested Jacob, as he still had to clean up the consequences of his old fleshly side. It was interesting to note that this was the one area the Enemy knew to try to trap Jacob in. The gift encouraged Esau, and he wanted Jacob’s family to join him in Seir. Jacob managed to steer clear of submitting to Esau’s request by saying his company would make their way but at a slower pace according to the herds and children with him “*until [he came] to [his] lord in Seir.*” We discover this was prophetic language when we read Obadiah. After this encounter, Jacob and family continued their journey but went in an opposite direction from Esau.

Eventually “Jacob *will* come to Seir.” The prophet Obadiah was from the tribe of Judah, and pronounced YHVH’s judgment against Edom, the descendants of Esau. The ultimate destruction would come from the House of Jacob, repaying the years of destruction exacted by the Edomites ruling the world.

**Obadiah 1:18-21** “The House of Jacob will be a fire and the House of Joseph a flame; the House of Esau will be stubble, and they will set it on fire and consume it. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau. YHVH has spoken. People from the Negev will occupy the mountains of Esau, and people from the foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead. This company of Israelite

exiles who are in Canaan will possess the land as far as Zarephath; the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev. Deliverers will go up from Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be YHVH's."

Jacob journeyed to Sukkot where he made shelters or booths for his family and livestock. We discern by this that Jacob had been in YHVH's season of repentance with respect to YHVH's *moed*/Feast schedule. *Sukkot*/shelters is a reference to one of YHVH's *moedim*, His Feast day called Feast of Tabernacles. Jacob's life had followed the days of repentance called the "ten days of awe" from Yom Teruah to Yom Kippur. Five days afterward is the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles also called the Feast of Shelters or Booths. Jacob's life unfolded the truth behind YHVH's appointed Feasts for our lives.

There are three phases to a Hebrew wedding: The betrothal (Feast of Shavuot/Pentecost), the wedding (the Feast of Yom Kippur) and the celebration (Feast of Tabernacles). YHVH's *moedim*/seasons/feasts are to direct Yeshua's bride—led by the Ruach HaKodesh/Holy Spirit—to the Bridegroom and her wedding.

Jacob's whole story was a representation for our lives. Learning how to walk in YHVH's ways and how to live according to His Word prepares us as a royal priesthood and a holy nation. May we become a people who, like Jacob, learn to walk in YHVH's appointed seasons by upholding them, and so reaping the blessings that they hold for our lives.

Jacob finally arrived safely at the city of Shechem, and camped "within the sight of it." This was the same place that Abraham and Isaac had been to earlier. Now Jacob also purchased this place to pitch his tent on and set up an altar naming it El Elohe Israel, "*The mighty God of Israel*" (Genesis 33:18- 20).

### **Genesis 34 Dinah and the Shechemites**

Camping "within sight of the city" drew the curiosity of Leah's daughter Dinah. She went out to *visit* the women of the land seeking companionship. This seemed innocent enough but Scripture indicates that Dinah left the safety of the Torah lifestyle (living in obedience to God's teaching and instruction for life) and mingled with worldly ways. When she longed for what the world had, the desires of her sinful nature led her astray. With the unchecked lust of the eye and lust of the flesh (soul), she reasoned within herself and was attracted to the unclean world just as Eve was. In her heart she *mixed* what was holy with the unclean emotions and thoughts of her sinful nature. She did not take captive her thoughts. Once outside the covering of Torah, YHVH's people are attractive to the enemy, and in the story of Dinah, opportunity was given which brought transgressions and iniquity with far reaching repercussions into the future. In "crossing over" (the kind of crossing over we ought not to choose), Dinah drew attention to herself. An uncircumcised man approached Dinah's uncircumcised heart. Outside of her *abbafather's* protection and covering, she exposed herself and began to follow a path that led to spiritual and physical death.

Upon hearing what happened to Dinah, did her father Jacob come to her aid? Did Jacob speak out against this outrageous act of violence? It seems he did not take action as Scripture records he remained silent, waiting for her brothers to return. Young women need to recognize their

covering. The father's proper, balanced role in the home is so important for young women growing up. Without this, women will be exposed, vulnerable and open to seeking love in wrong places. Any children living in a home, whether natural born or not, are to be covered by the father of that home. This proper parenting is like the cloud covering over the Tabernacle in the wilderness. Yeshua is our heavenly covering, and believing fathers are to be imitators of Yeshua in the home. Our behavior as parents is directly related to our view of our Heavenly Father and His covering over us, and will affect how our children view Him as a loving Father as well. May we be true fathers to our children, covering them, encouraging them and teaching them in loving ways.

The violation of Dinah led to a scheme of lies that led to Simeon and Levi being severely reprimanded. Because of the way they meted out vengeance of Dinah's mishap, they were passed over at the time of the receiving the firstborn inheritance, as was Ruben. This is how Judah, the fourth son of Leah, became Leah's firstborn son. We must be very careful what we sow in our hearts as one day we will reap what we sow.

### **Genesis 35 Jacob Returns to Bethel**

When in Shechem, YHVH said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar to YHVH." How did Jacob prepare his household? He commanded them to get rid of the foreign gods in their possession. How did Jacob know about the gods? Was it because of Rachel that these idols were brought into the camp in the first place? The people gave Jacob all their gods and earrings. *He buried them under the oak at Shechem.* Then he asked them to purify themselves (ritual water cleansing called the Mikvah for change of status—from the unclean realm to the clean realm) and change their clothes. Once they did this, they set out and the "terror of YHVH fell upon the towns all around them so that no one pursued them."

We see something important here. To hold idols dear to our hearts will bring contamination upon us and the whole camp. If our lives are not as blessed as we had hoped and prayed for, maybe we could learn a lesson here. The story of Jacob is about *salvation of the soul*. May we be prayerful of what we hold on to. There may be idols we have yet to relinquish that are preventing us from moving forward in our walk with Yeshua. Seeking prayer lineups and conferences may help, but the reality of what we need may have to do with something we have hidden in our hearts. Seeking repentance and circumcision of the heart first, learning from the testimonies in the Bible and abiding by YHVH's Word can and will bring many blessings in our own lives and in the lives of other (James 1:14-15; 4:1-10).

Jacob came to Bethel and built an altar there, calling the place El Bethel, "*House of YHVH.*" There YHVH appeared to him again saying, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be *Israel.*" So he named him Israel. And YHVH said to him, "I am El-Shaddai. Be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you" (Genesis 35:10-12).

The Covenant YHVH set up with Abraham and Isaac was now passed on to the next generation. In response to YHVH, Jacob set up a stone pillar and poured out the drink offering and oil on it. The offerings were not separated, so when we see a drink offering in scripture we look for the

grain offering called *minchah* in Hebrew. Stone (as in the stone pillar) is a reference to the Messiah; Yeshua is the “Bread of Life,” He is the bread offering! That is why Jacob poured out the drink offering and oil on the Rock, Yeshua, the Bread of Life (Genesis 35:14). (See Leviticus 2, Numbers 15 and John 6:35 for reference.)

### **Genesis 35: The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac**

As Jacob’s family made their way from Bethel to Bethlehem, Rachel began her labor, but died shortly after giving birth to Benjamin. The truth was Rachel “died” when she stole, hid and lied about her father’s idols (Genesis 31:32-35). Her early death was set in motion when Jacob pronounced a death sentence over her by saying to Laban, “If you find anyone, who has your gods, he shall not live.” The end of her life cycle ended with the birth of her son, the only son of Jacob born in the Promised Land.

This is a story about taking every thought captive and being very careful with the words we speak. There is a creative force behind our words that can lead to binding the work of the *Ruach HaKodesh*/Holy Spirit in ourselves. Our words can literally lead to death—spiritually and eventually physically—in ourselves, plus effect a lot of other people, as we have seen in this story.

As Jacob continued to travel home, Reuben, Leah’s firstborn son, defiled his father’s bed by sleeping with Rachel’s maidservant Bilhah. This set the future stage for Rachel’s firstborn son, Joseph, whom we shall read of in our next lesson. Twenty years after leaving home, Jacob finally made it back to Hebron to see his father Isaac before his death. Isaac lived to one hundred and eighty years before YHVH took him. His sons Jacob and Esau buried him.

**Colossians 3:1-17** “Since, then, you have been raised with Yeshua, set your hearts on things above, where Yeshua is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Yeshua in God. When Yeshua, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry (Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil). Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self (Tree of Life), which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Yeshua is all, and is in all.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

“Let the peace of Yeshua rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Yeshua dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in

your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of Yeshua Ha Mashiach, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

**Philippians 2:12-16** “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, *continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling*, for it is YHVH who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of YHVH without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold on to the word of life in order that I may boast on the day of Yeshua that I did not run or labor for nothing.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20** “Therefore, if anyone is in Yeshua, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from YHVH, who reconciled us to himself through Yeshua and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that YHVH was reconciling the world to himself in Yeshua, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the *message of reconciliation*. We are therefore Yeshua’s ambassadors, as though YHVH were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Yeshua’s behalf: Be reconciled to YHVH.”

**Amos 9:11-12** "In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name."

Shabbat Shalom  
Carl and Julie Parker

#### **Reference:**

*Redeemed Israel: Reunited and Restored* by Batya Wootten [www.messianicisrael.com](http://www.messianicisrael.com)  
*All Israel Dances Toward The Tabernacle* by C. Anderson / T. Clemens [www.messianicisrael.com](http://www.messianicisrael.com)  
*Simchat Torah Beit Midrash* R. Messer various teachings [www.torah.tv](http://www.torah.tv)  
*A More Excellent Way: Be In Health. Spiritual Roots of Disease* by Pastor Henry Wright  
[www.beinhealth.com](http://www.beinhealth.com)

*Sheepfold Gleanings* written by Carl and Julie Parker  
Mail: 6655 Royal Avenue; P.O. Box 94014; West Vancouver, BC; V7W 2B0 CANADA  
Website: [www.sheepfoldgleanings.com](http://www.sheepfoldgleanings.com)  
Email: [sheephear@yahoo.ca](mailto:sheephear@yahoo.ca)  
Now in Spanish / Espanol

© Copyright 2003-2009 Sheepfold Gleanings Inc. All Rights Reserved.