

"Jacob Sojourned In Canaan"

Genesis 37:1

Overview: The next and last main section in Genesis (37-50) shifts towards the life of Joseph.

Vs. 1 - Jacob lived in Canaan vs. Esau moving to Seir (see 36:6-8).

The contrast between these two brothers is worth mentioning. Esau begins to expand his own country with "chiefs" (15-19) and "kings" (31) while Jacob is a sojourner in the land of his fathers with no land to govern, no tribes to brag about. There is a picture here of the secular life vs. the spiritual one. Whereas the secular success of Esau brings relatively quick power and worldly greatness, the spiritual journey of Jacob and the promised spiritual blessings that are his demand waiting, patience, and faith.

While Esau prospered (Ch. 36) Jacob, or "Israel", struggled (He struggles with God). - see 35:9-12. Rachel had died (35:16-21) and his oldest son, Reuben had slept with his concubine in order to usurp his supposed coming authority of the family (35:22).

1. God's people are very much sojourners in a foreign land to this day. (How to tell if you are one:)

John 18:36

A. Is Jesus Christ your King?

1 Chronicles 29:15 - *"Tenants" because Israel's land was never meant to be their real, permanent home. Heaven was.*

B. Do you view everything in this life as not your own, as merely on loan from God?

I. If you are a spiritual sojourner your view is that nothing is really "yours" here on earth. (*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven."*)

Psalm 39:12 - *"Tears" are a normal part of a sojourner's walk because they are far from home.*

C. Do you have a deep sorrow within you as you wait for heaven, your real and lasting home? (*Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with griefs too.*)

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Psalm 119:19

D. Are you desperate for God's Word?

I. God's Word always brings hope and a purpose to carry on for His pilgrims. (*Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me [kept me alive]. Psalm 119:49-50*)

II. God's Word is the Pilgrim's only source of Truth that's unchanging in a constantly changing, temporary world.

1 Peter 2:11

E. Do you know of the War against the Flesh?

I. Esau knew nothing of this.

Hebrews 11:13

Close: Often times we sojourners and pilgrims feel like this world, with its sorrows and pains, will never end. But take heart, Jesus has overcome the world.

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

We just don't see it with the eyes of our head yet. We walk by faith, not by sight, just as Jacob and all the other heroes of the faith have done throughout time.