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- 68% of what Barna calls "born-again Christians" believe that the Bible teaches "God helps those who help themselves."



# Life of Jacob

Location	Age
Canaan	0-40
Paddan Aram	40-60
Canaan	60+
Egypt	Right before death



# Life of Jacob

## In Canaan

- Jacob struggles with Esau in the womb.
- Jacob extorts first-born birthright from Esau.
- Jacob deceives his father and steals the blessing.
- Jacob escapes to avoid the wrath of Esau.
- Jacob encounters God on the road to Paddan Aram.

## In Paddan Aram

- Uncle Laban uses his daughters to enslave Jacob.
- Jacob gains a large family.
- Jacob cheats Laban by stealing Laban's flock.
- Jacob escapes from the wrath of Laban and heads for home.
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<sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. <sup>30</sup> He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." <sup>32</sup> "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

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Genesis 25:29-34



<sup>13</sup> There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

<sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”



<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup> so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup> and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

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# Jacob's Life

## *In Paddan Aram*

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<sup>3</sup> Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. <sup>4</sup> He instructed them: “This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: ‘Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. <sup>5</sup> I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes.’ ”

<sup>6</sup> When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, “We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.”



<sup>7</sup> In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well. <sup>8</sup> He thought, “If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape.”



<sup>20</sup> ...For he thought, "I will pacify him with these gifts I am sending on ahead; later, when I see him, perhaps he will receive me." <sup>21</sup> So Jacob's gifts went on ahead of him, but he himself spent the night in the camp.

<sup>22</sup> That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. <sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone....



<sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." ...

<sup>29</sup> Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” <sup>31</sup> The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

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