

LIVING IN THE BLESSING

Part 5 of Foundation 260 - OT. Genesis 30:25-43.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 8, 2026.

TWO KINDS OF BLESSINGS

Creation Blessings

- God designed the world to operate according to natural laws that bless us: sunshine, oxygen, food, friends, immune systems, intelligence, government, and the like.
- Theologians call these creation blessings “common grace.”
- Common grace is available to everyone, but it is not 100% guaranteed. Common grace sustains our lives, but it does not save or sanctify anyone.

Covenant Blessings

- Redemption blessings are promised and poured out by God to advance his plan of redemption or salvation.
- Theologians call these blessings “special grace.”
- These are unearned and undeserved. They are only available to people who trust God and his promises. They are 100% guaranteed by covenant.

GENESIS 30:25-43 (CSB)

Read the passage in, for example, the Bible App.

- This story exemplifies covenant or special grace, as God graciously poured out abundant blessings on Jacob to advance his plan of salvation.
- His family line would eventually produce Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

JACOB RECEIVED GOD'S BLESSINGS

God blessed Jacob abundantly.

- He gave Jacob eleven children (see chapters 29-30).
- His father-in-law got rich because of the blessing on Jacob (30:29-30).
- God did this because he promised to do it (12:1-3; 17, 22, 26, and 28).
- God came to Jacob in a dream and confirmed the promise:

Genesis 28:13-15 (CSB) The LORD was standing there beside him, saying, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.... 14 All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 Look, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

- Jacob's success wasn't the result of his hard work or common grace. It was a gift from God, given according to his promise, despite Jacob's many shortfalls.

JACOB DID NOT DESERVE GOD'S BLESSINGS

Jacob was morally and spiritually compromised.

- He lived up to his name, which became a metaphor for deception.
- He stole his twin's birthright - Abraham's blessing (Genesis 27:35-36).
- Jacob was more than a match for his amoral father-in-law. He was equally deceptive; a high-order schemer.
- Jacob was an adulterer and a polygamist. He mistreated his wives. He also abused his power by taking advantage of his servant girls, Bilhah and Zilpah (Genesis 30:3, 9). His family was a mess.

- He counted on “magic” to grow his flock, using folk remedies to produce speckled sheep and goats. Maybe he had adopted the local religion and worldview (Laban was an occult polytheist - Genesis 30:27; 31:19).

HOW DOES JACOB’S STORY RELATE TO US?

The story prompts us to read the Bible intelligently.

- Discern what is descriptive, what is prescriptive in the story.
- On the one hand, we should not follow Jacob’s example.
- On the other hand, we should rely on God’s covenant faithfulness. His promises are unbreakable.
- Jacob was blessed because of the Abrahamic Covenant. We are blessed because of the New Covenant.

The story prepares us to count on New Covenant blessings.

- The New Covenant is received by faith and sealed by the Blood of Christ.
- The blessings are covenanted grace, 100% guaranteed gifts that we cannot earn and do not deserve.
- God blesses us even when we fail. He has covenanted to:

Ephesians 1:3-8 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us.

Rest in glorious covenanted grace and blessings. Live in the blessing daily.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's February 8th teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

1. What are some examples of "creation blessings" you experience every day? Which blessings do you now recognize as "covenant blessings" in Christ?
2. Do you think Jacob's success with his flocks was more about his effort or God's special, covenanted grace? Why? Look up Genesis 28:4, 14; and 31:9 for helpful insights. What reasons might have led Jacob to "help" God's promises along? What are some examples of us trying something similar?
3. When life doesn't go as planned, how can remembering God's covenant blessings stabilize your faith? How does this teaching challenge "prosperity gospel" ideas that tie blessing to performance or faith levels? What are some methods to remain mindful and assured of covenant blessings?
4. What does it mean for you personally to "live in the blessing every day"?

Prayer Focus

- Our 247 prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."
- Pray for more grace to rest in the New Covenant blessings daily.