

# THE LIFE OF JACOB

By Titus Chu

## MESSAGE FOUR: THE HEAVENLY PROVISIONS FOR THE DIVINE COURTSHIP (2)

*Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water gushing up into eternal life. (John 4:13-14)*

*Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:37-38)*

### INTRODUCTORY NOTES

- 1) In speaking for the Lord we must take care of four things: our person, our spirit, our content, and our utterance. Our person should be proper; if we feel short in any way, we should pray for the Lord's precious blood to cleanse us. Our spirit should be exercised. Our content should be rich. And our utterance should be clear.
- 2) It is Abraham's original name, "Abram," that means the "father of height." The name "Abraham" means the "father of multitudes." This indicates a process from "Abram" to "Abraham" in which his life multiplies. Our Father God is the father of height, and when many people receive His life, He becomes the father of multitudes.

### **THE SECOND PROVISION: THE WELL OF BEER-LAHAI-ROI**

After giving us the divine life as our source, God gives us a further provision in His courtship of us. Gen. 25:11 says, “And Isaac dwelt by Beer-lahai-roi.” Beer-lahai-roi is the name of a well. It means “the well of the living one who beholds us and unveils Himself to us.” This is a well where we can draw the living water to quench our thirst and meet all our needs. First God gives us His divine life as our source, and then He gives us a continuous life supply by causing us to dwell by Beer-lahai-roi. With this life supply we have the very God who is beholding us. He is not only in us as life, but He is beholding us and watching us so that He can reveal Himself to us. Our God is very careful, watching us and observing us all the time. He is seeking every opportunity to let us know who He is.

The well Of Beer-Lahai-Roi means that there is always a life supply available To Us. Sometimes we go through hard or dry times. But every time we feel hard or dry it is not because the well of Beer-lahai-roi has problems. Our problem is that we don't come to the well. Whenever we come to the well there is always a life supply. God not only gives us His divine life as our source, but He gives us a well where we can always be supplied with this very life.

The Supply Of Life At Beer-Lahai-Roi Is Not Sensational Or Sentimental. Often we think that taking in God's life should be like drinking soda. Soda is good for enjoying a refreshing sensation, but it is not good for nourishment. God's life supply is very different from the earthly supply. The earthly supply, the supply the world offers us, satisfies us physically or psychologically. But that satisfaction is only temporary and sensational, and is not good for nourishment. This is what the Lord meant when He said, “Whoever drinks of this water shall thirst again” (John 4:13). For example, when we watch a movie it satisfies us sensationally. We drink in a temporary psychological enjoyment. But this enjoyment runs out. There is no Beer-lahai-roi in the movie theater. There is no supply of life

in the movie, so after the movie is over we feel empty. We “thirst again,” because the earthly supply is not real.

There is only one heavenly well, the well of Beer-lahai-roi, which is from God. This well supplies us with life. When we drink in this supply of life it is not merely sensational. The life supply at Beer-lahai-roi is a provision to us for our spiritual nourishment. It gives us strength to go on in our Christian life and to further enjoy God’s divine courtship.

At Beer-lahai-roi, God is watching us and beholding us in order to unveil Himself to us. This is why the supply at Beer-lahai-roi is eventually so much more satisfying than the earthly supply. There is no greater satisfaction than having a revelation in which we see the living God. At Beer-lahai-roi God is watching us and beholding us so that He can take the opportunity to unveil Himself to us. This very unveiling becomes our life supply.

We need to realize that the life supply at Beer-lahai-roi is related to the unveiling of Christ Himself. The more we see Christ in all the events and occurrences in our life, the more we enjoy the life supply at Beer-lahai-roi. The more Christ is revealed to us in the midst of all our environment, the more there is a well of living water deep within our being. The supply from this well makes us happy and satisfied. It is not merely a temporary psychological enjoyment but an eternal spiritual enjoyment. We drink in the very Christ who is revealing Himself to us.

In His provisions for the divine courtship God firstly gives us His divine life. We become the seed of Abraham, the father of height and the father of multitudes. Secondly, God puts us by the well called Beer-lahai-roi. Here God watches us and beholds us so that He can unveil Himself to us. He is looking for every opportunity to give us a revelation of Jesus Christ. God arranges our environment so that we come to this well again and again. However, in our experience we are often “naughty.” We neglect Beer-lahai-roi with its life supply. For this reason we should pray, “Lord, please watch me and behold me. You know that sometimes I forget to behold You, but please don’t stop

beholding me. You know that I often forget to come to You, but please don't stop coming to me. Lord, I want You to behold me and take every opportunity You can to unveil yourself to me." We don't realize how marvelous the Lord is. When we pray to the Lord in this way, He will respond by telling us, "I am trustworthy. I am able. I will fulfill My promise to you to meet all of your needs. I will be your well of living water. I will be your life supply. I will give you the spiritual nourishment and satisfaction for you to continue in our divine romance." This very speaking of the Lord is an unveiling. When we hear the Lord's voice in such a way, we can tell the Lord, "I can trust You to meet all my needs. You are the trustworthy and capable One. Thank You, Lord! I love You!" When we see who He is, when we see that He is mighty and trustworthy to supply us, then we are drinking at Beer-lahai-roi and enjoying the real and lasting satisfaction. Every time we have a revelation of Christ, there is a strong confirmation in our spirit about who He is. The real satisfaction is not a sensational drink, but an appearing and unveiling of the Lord in His divine romance.

This life supply comes to us because God is watching us and taking every opportunity to unveil Himself to us. He wants us to know Him as the real spiritual drink in our spirit. He wants to show us who He is. God would say, "Beer-lahai-roi is now your residence. It is here that I can give you the abundant and inexhaustible life supply. It is here that I can watch you and behold you so that I can unveil myself to you." We should not have an overly spiritual concept about this unveiling. It is not that we see a golden shining light that blinds us. God's unveiling simply means that we realize, "God is here." We have the deep realization of His presence with us. We hear His voice speaking to us. We experience His leading within us. We learn what it is to be constrained by Him, in which we tell say, "Lord, if this is what You want, that is fine with me. I just like being with You." These experiences are so joyful. The unveiling of the Lord becomes a real drink to us. Then with each unveiling of the Lord we trust Him more and we love Him more. As we continuously drink at Beer-lahai-roi we are supplied to be one with the Lord, to walk with Him, and to take a strong stand for His testimony.

### **THE THIRD PROVISION: THE PROTECTION OF OUR PARENTS**

Now we come to the next heavenly provision. “And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham’s son. Abraham begot Isaac. And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah ... to be his wife” (Gen. 25:19-20). These verses refer to Isaac and Rebekah, the parents of Jacob. The name “Isaac” means “laughter,” and the name “Rebekah” means “flattering” or “captivating.” Isaac and Rebekah typify our physical parents who were given to us by God for our protection.

If we are 2nd-generation believers then we usually grow up thinking that our parents are spiritual. But in the sight of God our father is “laughter” and our mother is “able to captivate by flattering.” In other words, both of them are discouraging. One of the biggest problems of 2nd-generation Christians is that the older they get, the more they find out who their parents really are. If we were born and grew up in a Christian family, eventually we realize that our parents are not as spiritual as they once appeared to be. We may have once thought that our family was marvelous, but eventually we learn that our father is just “laughter” and our mother is just “flatterer.” Within each family there is always some exposing over time. Many 2nd-generation believers cannot get through this realization. They think, “I see my dad, and I wonder if God is real. When I hear him share a testimony in the meetings, I’m so impressed. But when he goes home and becomes so sloppy, I get discouraged. No one would believe that this is the same person who gave himself to Christ in the church meeting.” They do not realize that their parents are a provision for the divine courtship.

The first provision from God is the divine life, the second provision is the supply of life, and the third provision is our physical parents. Our parents are a good protection for us from the Lord. But what is surprising is that they are not spiritual giants. They simply are who they are. Are they in their spirit all the time? No. Do they read the Bible all the time. No. Yet they are the best for us. Isaac and Rebekah typify our parents because

they are exactly like our parents. Our father is laughter, and our mother is a flatterer. They may not seem spiritual, but actually they are spiritual according to who they really are in their humanity.

This is not a light matter. If we understand this principle and take this word from the Lord, we will be blessed. Many times in our experience we are bothered by our mother and father. We think, "I don't understand. In the meetings they share a testimony and everyone is moved to tears. But when they come home they are just normal, common people. Sometimes they even get mad at each other." Yet we must realize that our father is Isaac, and our mother is Rebekah. From the Lord's perspective they are the best for us.

This is proven by verse 21 in this chapter: "And Isaac entreated Jehovah for his wife because she was barren. And Jehovah was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived." They had been married for twenty years. They may not have seemed that spiritual. But Isaac prayed to God, "My wife is barren. She will not conceive. I entreat You for a child." And then the Lord answered and his wife Rebekah conceived. This means that our life came into being by the prayer of our parents. We may not think that our parents are so spiritual, but the Lord gave us to them by answering their prayer.

Rebekah also prayed to the Lord. In her womb she had conceived twins, and they were fighting together. This caused her to suffer. She came to the Lord and asked Him, "If it is so, why am I like this?" (v. 22). Other translations of this verse say, "If this is so, it is better for me to die." The Lord responded to her prayer by saying, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples shall be separated from your bowels. And the one people shall be stronger than the other people. And the older shall server the younger." In other words, the Lord was saying, "You are thinking you have two sons, but I see two nations in your womb. You are thinking of two children, but I am thinking of two manners of people." Only God can see things this way.

Here we see God's choosing and predestinating. Did God ask Isaac to pray for children, or did Isaac initiate the prayer? Outwardly it was Isaac who prayed, but actually it was God who was encouraging him to pray. Then this prayer caused Rebekah to conceive twins. Because the twins fought together, she prayed to God herself. Then God answered her inquiry. This shows what good parents they really were.

Jacob was born to parents who prayed for his existence. According to their names, Isaac and Rebekah were not so spiritual. But they knew how to do their best for their children because they prayed to the living God. Again, this shows us that we should love and respect the parents the Lord has given us for our protection. Our parents may not seem spiritual, but the Lord knows how many times they have interceded on our behalf.

God's answer to Rebekah shows that He sees things differently than we do. When we look at our own life and consider our future we think, "What subject should I major in? What kind of job should I get?" But God looks at us and says, "Your major is to be a great nation! Your job is to be My testimony!" We think, "One day I will be a great historian," or, "One day I will be a great scientist. I will win the Nobel Prize!" But compared with God's desire these are nothing. They are zero. When He looks at us He sees a great nation. This means that He sees all the people we will get saved. He sees all the lovers of Jesus produced by our labor. He sees all the churches we will help raise up. He sees all the abundant life supply that we will render to the Body of Christ.

We are too small. We think we are only one person, but God sees us as a great nation. He sees many people loving Him because of us. That is why the Lord is so jealous over us. He is jealous over whatever would take us away from our divine commitment. He is jealous over our major, over our career, over our plans and our dreams that take us away from His testimony. He looks at us and sees so much, but we see so little. We must value ourselves highly, because God sees us as a great nation. Again, God is beholding us and watching. We see this when

Rebekah's children were born. "And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb" (v. 24). Rebekah knew they were twins, so she did not need to say "behold." Who was beholding in this verse? It was God who was beholding the birth of Rebekah's twins. When that day came God was so excited. He was there saying, "Behold! Two nations are coming!"

In His provision for us, God gave us good parents, not "overcoming" parents. We may not consider them as so marvelous. Our father is Isaac, and our mother is Rebekah. They are just a brother and a sister in the Lord, yet they are our protection. They brought us into being. They made us a Jesus lover. However, even they don't see us as God sees us. God sees us as someone grand, marvelous, and glorious, because we are for His testimony. We are not just one person. We are a great nation. We have to pray, "Lord, thank You for Your heavenly provisions. You gave Me the divine life, and You gave me the supply of life. You also gave me the best parents for my protection. Now Lord, I want to stand with You for the sake of Your testimony."

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