

I HAVE LOVED JACOB

by

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CHAPTER ONE

A CHALLENGING QUESTION

WE BEGIN the discussion by presenting the most powerful argument that can be presented; namely, the Biblical one.

This method may result in an immediate removal of the foundations on which has been built a false characterization of Jacob. Having thus received, as it were, the body blow at the very beginning of the argument, we shall be in a better position to follow the reasoned logic and the evidence of the succeeding chapters. Here, then, is the first argument, and it begins in the form of a question:

Can you find one word of condemnation of Jacob anywhere in the Bible?

We have presented this question to many traducers of Jacob's character, and soon discovered that these character-assassins became bewildered and then began to thumb nervously the pages of God's Book, and finally were compelled to admit with confusion that not a syllable of condemnation of Jacob is to be found in the Word of God!

This upsetting fact becomes all the more clearly silhouetted when it is remembered that God is a holy God, and cannot endure the slightest imperfections or shortcomings of character. Moses disobeys God just in the slightest deviation from His instructions and with what result? **"Because ye believed Me not . . . therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them!"** (Numbers 20:12)

So, for what to us would appear a slight disregard of God's command, (the smiting of the rock by Moses, instead of his speaking to the rock), Moses was denied the right to enter the land of promise!

Can God Condone Evil?

But here is Jacob, who, according to his defamers was a liar, a cheat, a shrewd and cunning schemer. Against this Jacob, God has not a single word to say in condemnation!

King David commits adultery, and immediately God sends a prophet to him, with the piercing condemnation, **"Thou art the man!"**

There is not a single case in the Scripture where a man did wrong in the sight of God, whom God failed to rebuke and punish, and that swiftly and unequivocally! If then, Jacob was such a rascal why in the name of justice does God permit him to go uncondemned? More than that, and piling bewilderment upon bewilderment, what are we going to do with what God said on the very night that Jacob ran away from his home and from Esau, after he had committed what these misguided libelers declare to have been a most terrible crime; namely, the “cheating” of his old father, Isaac? God appears to Jacob and tells him:

“Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places, whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of” (Genesis 28:15).

So we are face to face with a difficult problem: for if Jacob committed such a heinous crime as is charged by his foes; then God was a partner with him in the crime! Let us face the issue squarely. Do not let prejudices blind our mind and our heart to stubborn facts. The solemn declaration of God is, **“Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated.”**

We are told of Jacob, **“He was a plain man dwelling in tents”** (Genesis 25: 27), and if we will take the trouble to look up the word **“plain”** in the Hebrew text, we shall find that it means just the opposite of deceit and cunning! Some commentators use the expression that Jacob was *“a quiet man,”* but this is still not correct; the real meaning of the word is **“perfect.”** The same word is used in describing Noah and Job, that they **“were perfect toward God.”**

Again, what are you going to do with God’s Word? How can you condemn where God has not condemned? We need to take off our shoes, for we are treading on holy and dangerous ground!

Even the wicked and idolatrous Balaam knew the better discretion; for it was he who declared, **“How shall I curse whom God hath not cursed?”** (Numbers 23:8)

It is a serious business to deviate from God’s ways. We tremble for the so-called Bible teachers who dare to stand up on a public platform and hurl their denunciations and misalignments against a man of whom God had said, **“Jacob have I loved!”** Such men ought to repent in shame and humiliation!

The Proof of the Pudding

And now look at the harvest. The descendants of Esau became, among other things, cave dwellers, idolaters, cannibals, and **“The people against whom the Lord hath indignation forever”** (Malachi 1:4).

The posterity of Jacob founded a mighty kingdom, produced the most marvelous law-giver the world has ever known, lived under mighty kings, priests, prophets, warriors, poets, sages, historians and evangelists. They gave us the most marvelous examples of faith and godliness; and wonder of wonders, the greatest character the world has ever seen,—greater than the world itself and all creation besides, the Saviour of mankind,—the Son of God!

The indescribable, incomprehensible, omnipotent Son of God, who came out of the stock of this “rascal” Jacob!

Thus, we discover that Almighty God made no mistake when He chose Jacob to be the recipient of His wonderful blessing!

“Supplanter” a False Description

Another error should be exposed at this point: The word “Jacob” does not mean supplanter! Read the inspired record of how he got his name in Genesis 25:26:

“And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau’s heel; and his name was called Jacob (*heel*): and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.”

So “Jacob” means heel! By what strange metamorphosis of hocus pocus magic, heel becomes “supplanter,” is beyond comprehension. Such illegitimate misuse of God’s Word only illustrates how far preconceived notions can go in a determined will to plead a false cause.

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