

I HAVE LOVED JACOB

by

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CHAPTER SEVEN

MEASURING GOD WITH YOUR YARDSTICK

WE THINK we have the answer to the puzzle. We have searched, probed and have tried to get at the bottom of the difficulty which confronts us when we seek an explanation for the vials of venom and boiling hate which seem to be so abundantly poured out over poor Jacob's head. We think it is that so many try to measure God's standards by their own yardsticks.

The main argument brought forward by those who defame Jacob's character, is that Jacob's conduct shocks their sense of morals.

There are two answers to this assertion.

The first one, to which we already have alluded in this discussion, is that God Himself never was shocked by Jacob's behavior, but actually appeared unto Jacob and blessed him. This drives one to the conclusion that God becomes a party to the acts of Jacob, for if we condemn Jacob we condemn God.

The second answer is even more serious in its implications; for such a policy of rationalizing the acts of Jacob to a standard of our own manufacture, will land us, if we are consistent, squarely into the lap of the so-called Modernists! For it is the Modernist who seeks to rationalize the Word of God.

It will be remembered that it was a Chicago University Professor who repudiated the fact of the Atonement, on the ground that it was "grossly immoral." He labeled it "the religion of the shambles." Why? Because the theory of the atonement shocked his sense of ethics and morals.

And how shall we explain to the satisfaction of our sense of morals the fact that God told Hosea to go and live with an adulteress? You see it is dangerous business to try to bring God down to your level of morals. "**My ways are not your ways,**" saith God, and it will be well for us to keep this in mind.

The character of Jacob stands out in bold relief on the pages of Scripture as a man of superlative faith, a man who risked his all because he believed the promises of God, a man whom God loved and concerning whom He was glad to say, "**I am the God of Jacob.**"

It will not be amiss, as we close these meditations and polemics to quote out of the mouth of a heathen idol worshipper some startling, yet precious, words which God Himself put there. We refer to the reculant testimony of the wicked prophet Balaam, as given in Numbers 23:8-12:

“How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied? For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him; lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations. Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his! And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether. And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the Lord hath put in my mouth?”

It remains now for us to ask our reader’s one question: Which side are you on, the side of God or the side of Esau?

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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