

The Duties of the Priest Part 4

The Family of Jacob

A family is a basic unit of the church and the society. Previously we discussed the following families:

- A. *The family of Adam:*
- B. *The Family of Enoch:*
- C. *The Family of Noah:*
- D. *The Family of Abram:*
- E. *The Family of Lot:*
- F. *The family of Isaac:*

Let us now continue:

G. *The family of Jacob:* From Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob came out as the righteous seed that God would count on to bring forth His Word of truth to the world and to the next generations. Jacob listened to his parents' advice not to marry a Canaanite woman but to have a wife from the family of his mother. *"1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. 3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham. 5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother."* (Genesis 28:1-5 KJV) Jacob obeyed his father and left for Haran to get a wife. *"10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, 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 28:10-15 KJV) On his way the Lord God of Abraham and Isaac, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the living Word appeared to him in a dream and confirmed His promise to his ancestors. *"16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. 20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in*

this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee." (Genesis 28:16-22 KJV) When Jacob woke up from his dream he committed his life to the Lord and made his vow to God. The lordship of God over Jacob's life was conveyed by what he did in that place. Jacob saw and heard the Lord Jesus, the Son of God speak to him. Jacob was alone in that place but he expressed his worship to God. He called the place ***"Bethel"*** meaning the house of God. Jacob promised to give a tithe of everything that God would give him as long as he would be provided and be kept safe.

Parallel to what Jacob experienced and vowed, the Church of God in the New Testament is the Bethel where true worshippers meet God, experience God, and fulfill their promises to God:

1. ***"shall the LORD be my God":*** These words express the Lordship of God over the worshipper's life. The word ***"LORD"*** means God should be the master, and be followed and honored in every arena of the worshipper's life-marriage, work, and service. The Lord God should lead the worshipper's life, and be enthroned in the person's everyday living.

2. ***"And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house":*** These words express the commitment of the worshipper to be part of God's church. The church is the family of God and the members are God's household. A worshipper commits his life to God and to the church where he serves God, and helps build up God's people.

3. ***"and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee":*** All the provision that a worshipper receives has to be tithed because God is the source of everything. Jacob promised a tithe of everything to acknowledge that God alone can protect him, God alone can provide for him, and God alone can prosper him. Indeed God blessed Jacob's journey. God gave him a suitable wife Leah, but he was not happy with God's choice so he took Rachel, the sister as wife in addition to Leah. ***Never do such and marry your own and reject what God had given you.*** Jacob served his uncle Laban, who ten times had cheated him, for twenty years. Later, Jacob returned home as God instructed him together with his big family, now a good number of God's church. In his journey back home God protected him from the hands of his uncle Laban, and when he arrived at his place God protected him from his brother Esau who wanted revenge on him. *"18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. 19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. 20 And he erected there an altar, and called it EleloheIsrael."* (Genesis 33:18-20 KJV) Jacob set up an altar in Shechem and neglected what he had promised God that if the Lord would bless him he would return to Bethel and set up an altar there. This Jacob's wavering of commitment brought troubles in the life of his family: *"1 And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. 2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her. 3 And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel. 4 And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel to wife. 5 And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come. 6 And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with*

him. 7 And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter: which thing ought not to be done. 8 And Hamor communed with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him to wife. 9 And make ye marriages with us, and give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you. 10 And ye shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade ye therein, and get you possessions therein. 11 And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give. 12 Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife. 13 And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister: 14 And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that were a reproach unto us: 15 But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we be, that every male of you be circumcised; 16 Then will we give our daughters unto you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. 17 But if ye will not hearken unto us, to be circumcised; then will we take our daughter, and we will be gone. 18 And their words pleased Hamor, and Shechem Hamor's son. 19 And the young man deferred not to do the thing, because he had delight in Jacob's daughter: and he was more honourable than all the house of his father. 20 And Hamor and Shechem his son came unto the gate of their city, and communed with the men of their city, saying, 21 These men are peaceable with us; therefore let them dwell in the land, and trade therein; for the land, behold, it is large enough for them; let us take their daughters to us for wives, and let us give them our daughters. 22 Only herein will the men consent unto us for to dwell with us, to be one people, if every male among us be circumcised, as they are circumcised. 23 Shall not their cattle and their substance and every beast of their's be our's? only let us consent unto them, and they will dwell with us. 24 And unto Hamor and unto Shechem his son hearkened all that went out of the gate of his city; and every male was circumcised, all that went out of the gate of his city. 25 And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males. 26 And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out. 27 The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister. 28 They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field, 29 And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in the house. 30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house. 31 And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?" (Genesis 34:1-31 KJV) Jacob's family received the consequence of the wavering in his commitment toward God. Dinah, his daughter went out with the women of the land. She was introduced to a man, who finally raped her, and her two brothers Simeon and Levi revenged against the whole city of Shechem because they had treated their sister as a harlot. "30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house." (Genesis 34:30 KJV) Typically, Jacob's family was the church now placed in danger. And the reason was Jacob, who wrestled with God. Jacob's name was even replaced with "Israel" because he wrestled with God.

Jacob was always trying to insist in doing his own ways. He neglected his vow to God and did not go back to Bethel - to the house of God to worship, but built up an altar in Shehem. In Hebrew, the Word Shechem means 'back' or 'shoulder', as if Jacob put aside God and relied and took from Shechem a back and a shoulder to aid Him. Jacob consented with the people in the world. He exposed his family to the worldly people and their practices in Shechem. Jacob was not keen to protect his family that God gave him. He also did not control and discipline his children according to God's Word. Hence, his family was brought to calamity. Now Jacob who was brokenhearted and fearful of the people surrounded him, and needed to be restored. And God reminded Jacob of his commitment and covenant with God: **"I And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother."** (Genesis 35:1 KJV) Then Jacob truly repented of what he did and recognized how his family was harmed when he neglected God's Word and his vow to God: **"2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: 3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. 5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. 6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him. 7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother."** (Genesis 35:2-7 KJV) You can see clearly the effects of Shechem on the family of Jacob; the idol gods in their hands, their earrings and the bondage that they put themselves in; which all they needed to give up and give to their father who hid them under the oak tree. They needed to cleanse themselves and change their clothes which were not suitable for the people of God. **Therefore, and in the same way cleanse your family and children from mobiles, gadgets, play stations in the hands of your children and youths, which are dangerous things that you should immediately take away from their hands and eyes. You should cleansed them by the Word of God and placed in their hands Bible to read daily with their eyes. As well as your dress and the dress of your children should be decent that not allows the parts of your body to be exposed to the public.**

My Dear and Beloved: Come now to God, taking heed of all the instructions, the teaching and the warning that you had received in this message, then commit yourself to the following:

- Commit yourself to God and take Jesus your Savior as LORD over your life.
- Commit yourself to serve God in His house the Church of God
- Commit yourself to bring your tithes, your offerings and your firstfruits to His house
- Never doing your own by marrying what you like and reject what God had given you.
- Never neglect to do what you had promised to God
- Never be in worldly places like Shechem while you ought to be in Bethel.
- Never agree with the people of the world and expose your family to the worldly people that will harm them.
- Be keen to protect the family that God gave him.
- Rule, control and discipline your children according to God's Word, so your family will not be brought to calamity.

- Humble down and repent and start to do what you promised when God is reminding you of your commitment and covenant with Him.
- Remove the idols and the strange gods from the life of your children; help them to be set free from all their bondages and their slavery to the devil and to be cleansed from their sins.
- Change your life style, as well as the lifestyle of your family and children and be away from all worldliness.
- Remove mobiles, gadgets, play stations from the hands and eyes of your children and youths.
- Your dress and the dress of your children should be decent that not allows the parts of your body to be exposed to the public.
- Place Bibles in the hands and eyes of your children and daily read and expound to them God's Word, kneel down and pray to God and keep reminding them of their responsibilities toward God.

Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for all your blessings and your protection to me. Lord, thank you for all the admonishments and the rebukes and the corrections that I received in this message from the life of Jacob. Lord thank you for opening my eyes to see the danger that I had placed myself and my family in, and thank you for the warning and reminder that I received to repent, to correct myself and to move away from the wrong place that I am in.*

Come now to God and confess your sins. Confess and renounce your disobedience, stubbornness, and doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for worldly things. Confess that you had broken your vow and commitment with God and His church and your lack of tithing and service unto God. Confess and renounce your ungratefulness to God. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers and friends, and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your lack of discipline to your children, your bad example and your lack of reading God's Word and prayer. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to go up and return to where I should be so that I can fulfill what I had promised to you. Lord I commit myself to come out of all worldliness and to pull my family and children from the world and to discipline them and cleanse them from the Media, games, threats of immoralities and other bondages that they may entangle in. Lord I commit myself not to do my own but your plan and your will. Lord sustain me and give me strength and courage to do the very will of you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and committed themselves to fulfill their promises to you. Lord bless the good works that they are doing for you in their families and with their children. Lord use their testimonies as good example for others to follow you. Lord protect them and provide for them so they will continue to serve you. Lord, bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to continue to teach our members and workers your Word and to implement them in their lives and the lives of their families. Lord we ask you to aid us in all what we are doing. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and evangelize, and make new

disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Duties of the Priest Part 4. The Family of Jacob. Genesis 28:1-5, 10-22. Genesis 33:18-20. Genesis 34:1-30. Genesis 35:1-7.

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