

1. God empowered us to get Wealth

www.victory.net.nz 18.05.2025
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Sub-title: Placing a demand on our covenant with God

Deuteronomy 8:11–18 (NKJV) *Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, 12 lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;17 then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ 18 “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

- God made a covenant with Abraham & his descendants, and promised to bless, multiply & prosper them exceedingly
- Abraham became very wealthy, so did his son Isaac & grandson Jacob
- Moses reminded the Israelites about God’s covenant during the Exodus
- He said ... *do not forget the Lord your God:*
 - *when you have eaten and are full ...*
 - *when you have built beautiful houses ...*
 - *when your herds and your flocks multiply ...*
 - *when your silver and your gold are multiplied ...*
 - *when all that you have is multiplied ...*
- God’s covenant with His people is one of prosperity and multiplication
- God gives us power to get wealth ...
- Vs18. *that He may establish His covenant which He swore to our fathers*

God’s Covenant of Prosperity is not fully ‘established’ or ‘fulfilled’ (NLT) until we demonstrate a reasonable level of prosperity in our lives.

1. Jacob acquired tremendous wealth over a period of 20 years

Genesis 32:10 (NKJV) *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.*

- Jacob left his father’s house with a stick in his hand & returned 20 years later with two companies (2 groups of people & 2 groups of livestock)

- Jacob had taken advantage of his brother Esau & bought Esau's birthright for a pot of stew. (Genesis 25:33)
- He also "stole" his father's blessing that was reserved for Esau, Isaac's first-born son
- Jacob fled from Esau & went to his uncle Laban for a period of 20 years
- On his way, he had a God-dream at Bethel about a ladder that reached from earth to heaven (Jacob's ladder)

2. Jacob makes a commitment to God to become a tither

Genesis 28:16–22 (NKJV) *Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" 18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. 20 Then **Jacob made a vow, saying**, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. 22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and **of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.**"*

- Jacob made a vow, saying ..
 - If God will be with me ...
 - and keep me in this way that I am going ...
 - and give me bread to eat ..
 - and clothing to put on ...
 - so that I come back to my father's house in peace ...
 - **then the Lord shall be my God.**
- **Vs. 22. and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."**
- Tenth – tithe (10% of all income)
- Jacob served Laban 7 years to be given his daughter Leah as wife
- He served another 7 years to be given his daughter Rachel as wife
- Then he committed to serve another 7 years for wages

Genesis 30:25–27 (NKJV) *And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country. 26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you." 27 And **Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in***

your eyes, for *I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake.*

- Laban's business was blessed because of Jacob's presence
- (Jacob brought the presence & blessing of God into Laban's farm)
- Our presence (as believers in Jesus Christ) should cause a blessing to our employer's business)

Genesis 30:29–30 (NKJV) *So Jacob said to him, “You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me. 30 For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the Lord has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?”*

- Laban asked Jacob what he wanted for wages if he agreed to stay longer and continue to serve him
- Jacob said: You shall give me nothing (money?) but I will take all the streaked, speckled & spotted animals among your flock
- Then, Laban removed all the streaked, speckled, and spotted animals from among his flock, and gave them to his sons to take them away 3 days' journey from where Jacob shepherded the remainder of Laban's flock (Genesis 30:34–36)
- Now, Jacob had no streaked, speckled or spotted animals to take for himself
- But God showed him in a dream to see & “visualize” the flocks bringing forth streaked, speckled and spotted offspring (Genesis 31:10-12)
- God blessed Jacob tremendously by causing the flocks to bring forth streaked, speckled, and spotted offspring

Genesis 30:41–43 (NKJV) *And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. 42 But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feeble were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's. 43 **Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.***

Genesis 31:11–13 (NKJV) *Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ 12 And He said, ‘Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you*

made a vow to Me. *Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’ ”*

- In other words, Jacob, do you remember when you made a vow to Me 20 years ago?
- You said: (Genesis 28:20-22)
 - If God will be with me ...
 - and keep me in this way that I am going ...
 - and give me bread to eat ..
 - and clothing to put on ...
 - so that I come back to my father's house in peace ...
 - **then the Lord shall be my God**
 - and, **of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You**
- God reminded Jacob of the commitment that he had made to God
- Although it looked like nothing significant was happening for 14 plus years, God had a plan
- Initially, Laban got really blessed in his business because of Jacob
- Then, God caused a transfer of wealth, from the hand of Laban to the hand of Jacob, over a period of approx. 6 years
- Regardless of the mechanics of peeling branches of trees and placing them before the flocks (however all that worked), God caused Jacob to prosper exceedingly
- Initially, Jacob served Laban 7 years for his 1st wife (Leah)
- Then, He served Laban for another 7 years for his 2nd wife (Rachel)
- And finally, he served Laban another 6 years (not for money, but for the livestock of speckled etc. animals)
- Going from not much to becoming exceedingly prosperous in 6 years!
- Be encouraged, God isn't finished with us yet!
 - Remember your vows
 - Be diligent in carrying out what you have said to the Lord
 - Be diligent with your tithes
 - Carry the presence of God wherever you go
 - Expect to prosper (Read Genesis 28:10 to Genesis 32:21)
 - Place a demand (by faith) on your covenant with God

Galatians 3:13–14 (NKJV) ***Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***