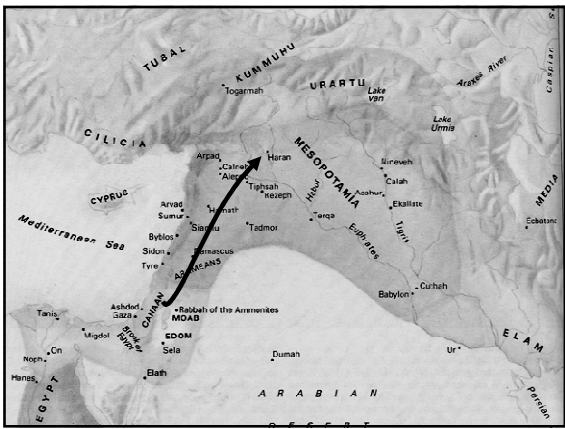
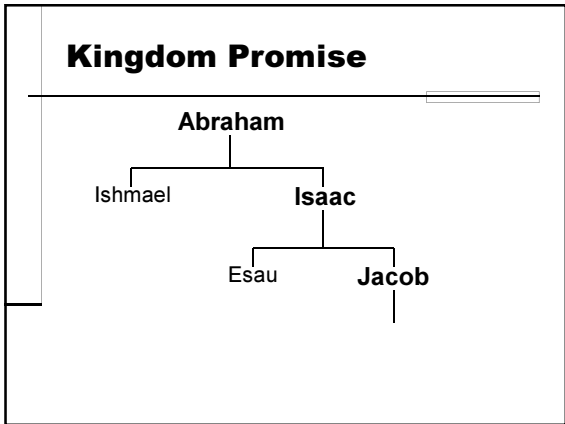


# Gleanings from the Pentateuch

## From "Jacob" to "Israel" (Genesis 32-33)



### Refinement of Jacob

**In Haran (20 yrs.):**

1. Laban deceived Jacob
  - switched Leah for Rachel
  - tried to cheat Jacob of his wages

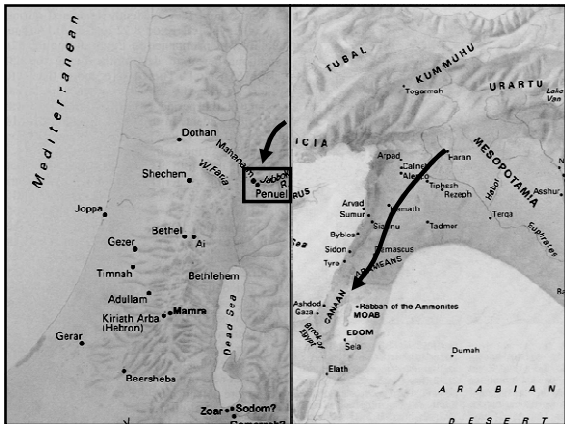
*Should have been a painful learning experience*

### Refinement of Jacob

**In Haran (20 yrs.):**

2. Jacob deceived Laban
  - Shrewdly used a clever gimmick to obtain Laban's livestock
  - Secretly fled from Laban

*God kept His promise, protected Jacob and richly blessed him*



## Refinement of Jacob

### Jacob's Encounter with God

- *Setting: Impending meeting with Esau*
  - Jacob was "greatly afraid and distressed"
  - He prayed to God based on His previous promise (sign of growth in faith)
  - He contrived a plan that would hopefully appease his brother

## Refinement of Jacob

### Jacob's Encounter with God

- *A man wrestles with Jacob*
  - the unknown man initiated the attack
  - the man's identity was concealed (dark) but was slowly revealed as divine
  - Jacob became aware of the man's divine character and desired a blessing

## Refinement of Jacob

### Jacob's Encounter with God

- *Significance*
  - A. The encounter
    - the wrestling is indicative of Jacob's whole life (self-reliant struggle for blessing)
    - he was brought to a point of clinging to the man for blessing (dependence on God)

## Refinement of Jacob

### Jacob's Encounter with God

- *Significance*
  - B. The change of name
    - From "Jacob" – signified his self-reliant ambition
    - To "Israel" – signified that he prevailed in his striving with God

## Refinement of Jacob

### Jacob's Encounter with God

- *Meeting with Esau*
  - All of Jacob's elaborate preparations for appeasing Esau were unnecessary
  - God had prepared the way by changing Esau's disposition

## Refinement of Jacob

### Lessons

1. God desires our complete dependence on Him and will "fight us" to have it
2. "Cease striving" – lay aside anxiety, fear, and worry; trust in the promises and providence of God