Jacob: Childhood Images (Gen. 25:23f)
How can God choose one and reject another before they were born?
Predestination versus free will debate
If a person is not chosen are they responsible?
Is that fair?

Name’s of the two boys
Birth -- heel grabber (Gen 25:26): Jacob
Birth -- Edom (Red) (Gen 25:30): Esau—hairy
Esau’s view of birthright bartering (Gen 25:32, 34)
  Nuzu laws

Deception of Isaac
What are some of the problems with parental favoritism? Gen. 25:28
Jacob’s lie & Isaac’s blessing—Gen. 27
  Power of father’s word
What were the consequences of Jacob’s lie?
  Isaac —27:33 shaken
  Esau —27:41 plots death of brother
  Rebekah —27:46 –daughters’-in-law
  Jacob —20 years flees to Haran

Meeting God at Beth-el (Gen 28)
What did Bethel mean in Jacob’s spiritual development?—Jacob’s ladder--ziggurat?
On personal encounter 28:10ff Covenant renewal
  – Abraham’s God now becomes his
  – Cf. College years
Why a Memorial stone (28:18)? Beth-El
Pre-law tithe (28:22)

Working your way through marriage
Jacob & well--7 yrs for Rachel (Gen 29:17-20)
  – Not odd in Nuzu customs
What separates between love and lust? 29:20
Why is Jacob’s wedding night ironic? 29:25
Jacob is a polygamous? Is that okay? Separating the Normative/non-normative in historical narratives (descriptive/prescriptive)
Why does God open Leah’s womb? (Gen 29:31)

What's with the mandrakes?
Why was Rachel so interested in getting the mandrakes? (Gen. 30:14ff)
Who gives Rachel her son? (Gen 30:22)
Who is Rachel’s first son?
Who is her last son?
Where does Rachel die? NT – Mat. 2:18

Leaving Haran & Laban
How and why did Rachel steal the family gods? (Gen 31:30, 35)

WFW angel wrestling match
Who did Jacob wrestle with? (Gen 32:24ff)
Should we pray when we’re in trouble?
Why did Jacob name the place Peniel? 32:30
Why did the angel change Jacob’s name to Israel?
Does Gen 32:32 show it is written by a later editor?

Meeting Esau
On meeting family years later
Jacob’s lie—importance of geography
Esau -- Edomites -- Obadiah -- Herod
Jacob Returns to Bethel (Gen 35)

- Gets rid of foreign gods (Gen 35:4)
- Reiterates name change (Gen 35:10)
- God reiterates covenant (Gen 35:11)
- Rachel dies having Benjamin near Bethlehem (Gen 35:19)—Jesus’ birth Mt. 2:18 (Rachel/Jeremiah[31:15; exile]/Jesus)

Jacob and the twelve tribes

Leah:  Reuben, Levi, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Dinah
Zilpah: Gad, Asher

Rachel: **Joseph, Benjamin**

Bilhah: Dan, Naphtali

**Dinah /Judah & Tamar**

Why is it Christians ignore Gen 34 & 38?

Raping of Dinah -- story line (Gen. 34)

Story Line—Judah and Tamar (Gen. 38)

Why did God put these two stories in the Bible?

- Elimination of older brothers
- Focus on Joseph by contrast

**Joseph narrative**

Comparison of Joseph and Jacob stories

Supremacy of younger

Family strife and deception— sibling rivalry, parental favoritism (Gen 37:3)

20 yr separation from family

Prosperity in foreign land

Reunion with estranged brothers

**Joseph and wisdom**

Story line: Where have I heard this before?

Resisting wild woman—Gen. 39:7-9

Dreams -- comp. Daniel (cup-bearer, baker; Pharaoh 7 years)

Egyptian Wisdom: silent man—Gen. 42:24

Fear of God motif: (Gen 42:18)

Classic Line: Gen 50:20