**BE ASSURED!.....GOD IS GOD!**

**(Gen.26 and 27)**

1. **GOD CONFIRMS HIS PROMISE (Gen.26:1-5)**

2 Cor. 1:20a “For all the promises of God find their YES in Him.”

1. **GOD CONFORMS HIS PEOPLE (Gen.26: 6-33)**
2. First test (Gen.26:6-11)
3. Second test (Gen.26:12-33)

1. **GOD CARRIES OUT HIS PLAN (Gen.26:34-ch.27)**
2. Substituting your own will for God’s (Gen.27:1-4)-ISSAC
3. Scheming to “help” God carry out His will (Gen.27:5-29)-REBEKAH AND JACOB
4. Seething over the will of God (Gen.27:30-46)-ESAU

A NOTE IN PARTICULAR TO WIVES….

The age in which we are living…in particular the American Culture, there is a strong pressure for women to step up, push men aside, and to say, “I have a much better way!”….and then implement our own ideas or agendas. In view of Rebekah in our passage today, Alexander Whyte has a discerning word on Rebekah:

“With all her beauty, and with all her courage, and with all her ambition to be in the covenant line, Rebekah lacked the best thing in a woman, covenant line or no—womanly sensibility, tenderness, quietness, humility, and self-submission…. “And the wife see that she reverence her husband” says Paul with his eye on Rebekah. Yes; but what if she cannot? What if there is so little left that is to be reverenced in her husband…? What if a wife wakes up to see that she has yoked herself to death to a churl, or to a boor, or to an ignoramus, or to a coxcombe, or to a lazy, idle log, or to a shape of a man whose God is his belly, or his purse, or just his own small, miserable self…? Well, she will need to be both a true woman and a true saint if she is to do what is right….Let her determine to be a New Testament wife to him. Let her believe that Jesus Christ said, and still says, “Take up thy cross daily!”

Alexander Whyte, *Bible Characters, The Old Testament* (London: Oliphants, 1952),

1:109-10.

John Philips adds the following…

“The story of Rebekah is intended to teach some sobering lessons to all practical, capable, determined women who find themselves married to submissive, pliable men. The great temptation for such women is to boss and bully their husbands. As a result the woman becomes increasingly masculine and the man becomes increasingly feminine. A truly strong woman will use her strength to minister strength to her husband, not to rob him of whatever backbone he might once have had. Rebekah’s is the story of the unsurrendered wife.”

John Philips, Exploring Genesis (Moody Press, 1980) p.227.

A PERSONAL NOTE: This doesn’t mean that your thoughts do not matter. The Lord intends for a wife to be a true helpmate! This certainly includes a wife praying, talking honestly with her husband, sharing her thoughts, encouraging him, and supporting him as he leads (even if he still disagrees).