



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Volume 3: From Prison to Praise #1

God Teaches Jacob Patience

Genesis 28:1 to Genesis 29:31



SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

1st reader repeat scripture 2x with congregation.

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ME

When I learn to be patient no matter the test,
Then Jesus will show me His wonderful best.

1. INTRODUCTION: There is not one of us who has not suffered in a prison of our own making, that kept us from praising God. From God’s word, we see how quickly people fall, and then rise up out of that prison, to praise God and bring glory to His name! Esau was in a prison of bitterness because he had no respect for the things of God and thoughtlessly sold his birthright blessing. Esau repented with tears, but even though God always forgives us when we confess our sin, at harvest time we reap the fruit of what we planted. Jacob was in a prison of jealousy, that made him willing to deceive his own father instead of trusting God. Jacob’s deception came back upon his own head, and as often happens, God teaches Jacob patience on the way to praise.

Objects to Bring: A Heavy Rock

2. LIFE PARABLE: God Teaches Terri Patience

Terri was always starting new projects and quit when it got too hard because she was afraid to fail. But Terri wanted to be in the Founder's Day 3-mile race more than anything! The whole town was coming and there was a 3-foot-tall trophy for the winner! But Terri had been born with a crippled foot, so it was really hard for her to walk or to run. She didn't mind so much, but sometimes kids like that Mary Olsen would call her names and laugh. It hurt Terri's feelings, but then she thought about how everyone laughed at Jesus hanging on the cross, but He loved them anyway. So Terri asked Jesus to help her to run, and to help her to love Mary.



As it turned out, only four kids were entered in the race. As the day of the race drew near, one kid got the measles, and another one's family had to go out of town, so the only two left were Terri and Mary! Mary could not believe that crippled Terri was really going to run against her, the best runner on the track team! As they knelt down at the starting line, the shot rang out and they were off! The crowd cheered as Mary came to the first water station, but then Mary stopped, sat down with her friends and laughed at how slowly Terri limped by. At the next mile marker Terri didn't see Mary at all. She could hardly breathe, her foot was hurting, and she wanted to quit, but she kept on going.

Finally, Terri could see the finish line when suddenly she could hear Mary's footsteps behind her, frantically trying to catch up as her friends laughed and cheered, "Come on Mary, she's going to beat you!" Terri was embarrassed but then the most wonderful thing happened - she broke through the finish-line ribbon! Everyone was cheering for her, astounded by her victory! Mary sat down defeated. Terri limped over to sit beside her, "Are you OK?" Mary looked up with tears in her eyes and said, "I don't get it Terri, why are you always so nice to me?" Terri got tears in her eyes too and couldn't wait to tell Mary about her wonderful Savior!

How was Terri like Jesus to Mary? She loved Mary even when Mary was sinning against her, and Terri forgave Mary.

3. JACOB WILL STILL BE BLESSED BUT FIRST HE WILL REAP CONSEQUENCES OF THE SIN HE SOWED.

Genesis 28:1 “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.”

Esau and Isaac both knew that God forbids us to marry anyone who does not worship Him, and still today, God forbids us His people, to be ‘unequally yoked’ in close friendship with any unbeliever. Taking advise from an unbeliever who is against the ways of God, puts a believer in grave danger. As believers in the living God of heaven, we will find ourselves in a mess of confusion if we mix the light of God who lives in us, with the darkness of the world.

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

Isaac and Rebekah saw the confusion and wickedness that came from their son Esau making the choice to have fellowship with unbelievers, and they wanted Jacob to follow only God’s way.

Genesis 28:2-5 “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. ³And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; ⁴And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee...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.”



With the believers in Haran, Jacob would find a good wife with whom he could build a home to inherit God’s blessing. So off he went 400 miles away to live with his uncle Laban’s family. But because of his sin Jacob would never see his mother again.

4. GOD'S COVENANT PROMISE IS FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

There was never any doubt in Old Testament Theology that God's covenant is for those who believe and obey God, and **God has not changed!** Our faithfulness to God's covenant, is showing our love for Jesus by keeping His Commandments, that will bring blessing upon our families, and even upon their children's children!

Deuteronomy 7:9-12 "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;....¹¹ Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.¹² Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers."

Whether we sin a lot or even just a little, sin begets more sin, and sin will bring trouble to our families for generations to come.

Genesis 28:6-10 "When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; ...⁸ And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;⁹ Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife."



When Esau saw that his parents didn't like his heathen wives, he defied his parents, and God, and married another one! **Compromise breeds deception, and nurtures unbelief.** Let us not deceive ourselves supposing we can play around with worldly pleasures and false doctrines Satan offers that will destroy us, but seek only to please God so you will reap a good blessed life!

5. GOD BLESSED JACOB BECAUSE HE BELIEVED.

So Jacob made the journey to Haran, and came to a place called Luz. It was time to sleep but Jacob didn't have a pillow.

Genesis 28:10-11 "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."

There were only rocks all around. Most of us would be complaining, in that dry, desolate, rocky place, and kick those stones in anger feeling sorry for ourselves, but Jacob found a stone and used that for a pillow!



OBJECT LESSON: Heavy Rock

Why do you suppose God blessed Jacob so much? He didn't complain, did he. (Lift up a big heavy rock)

What do you do when rocks are in your way? Jacob looked at the impossible believing God would make something wonderful out of it, and God always did! Jacob either found use for the rocks in his path, or he used them to build an altar of praise, and worshipped! (Drop the rock with a thud on the floor)

What is it that gets in the way of you being all that you hoped? Are you going to go through your life, tripping and complaining over all the rocks in your way and never quite make it to the blessing? Or will you be like Jacob and bless God with your willingness to use everything in your path as a blessing and give Him all the glory?

Blessings follow you when you praise God!

When we come to a dry place and complain, we receive nothing; but when you place your faith in the Lord Jesus and life takes you through dry, desolate and rocky places, where everyone's life path certainly will take them, believing that Jesus rewards those who love Him, His blessings come just like His blessing came to Jacob!

6. GOD SPEAKS TO JACOB IN A DREAM.

Genesis 28:12-15 “And he dreamed, and beheld 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.”



When Jacob fell asleep, he saw a ladder reaching to heaven, and the Lord standing above! God still speaks to His people in dreams and visions when we seek Him with all our hearts like Jacob.

Joel 2:28-29 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:** ²⁹ and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.”

God promised Jacob that He would never leave him until the promise was fulfilled.

Galatians 3:29 “And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

God's promise is still for those of us who are 'afar off', living long after Abraham, who love Him, that we too will be empowered by His indwelling Spirit, to dream dreams, to have visions of hope for our future; and God promises you too, that He will never leave you nor forsake you, just keep walking with Him, and He will get you to the promised land!

7. JACOB RECOGNIZES THE VISITATION FROM GOD.

***Genesis 28:16-17** 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.”*

How often is God so near, wanting you to open your eyes and see Him in your life! He has so many more miracles waiting in each of our lives if we will find rest in Him and recognize His presence!

***Genesis 28:18-19** “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.”*



So here is another thing we can do with all the hard places in our lives that cause us to stumble – build an altar! Jacob established a memorial in the place where God had visited him, taking the stone he had used for a pillow, stood it up, and poured oil on it to worship God! He named that special place Bethel, that means “House of God”. We can make memorials in our lives. We can! **record those times when God visits us with miracles and answers to prayer!**

***Luke 19 41-44** “And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, ⁴² Saying, **If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes... because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.**”*

We must not be weary of waiting, letting our faith grow cold like many of the Jews had done by the time Jesus came. We must exhort one another to **always be praying and watching for Jesus so we won't miss God's visitation in our own lives.** Keep walking in the faith of Jesus so you will recognize His visitation in your life, and live in His blessing like Jacob!

8. GOD DESIRES TO POUR OUT BLESSING ON YOU.

Genesis 28:20-22 *“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.**”*

God's blessings required obedience from His people, and there was a sign or token given to seal an agreement with God, called a covenant. Jacob made a vow to God at Bethel that if God would take care of him and keep him safe, then he would give God a tenth of all God gave to him as a sign of the covenant. God's promises are given still for us today for all who believe!



Galatians 3:14,16 *“That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith... ¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, **but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.**”*



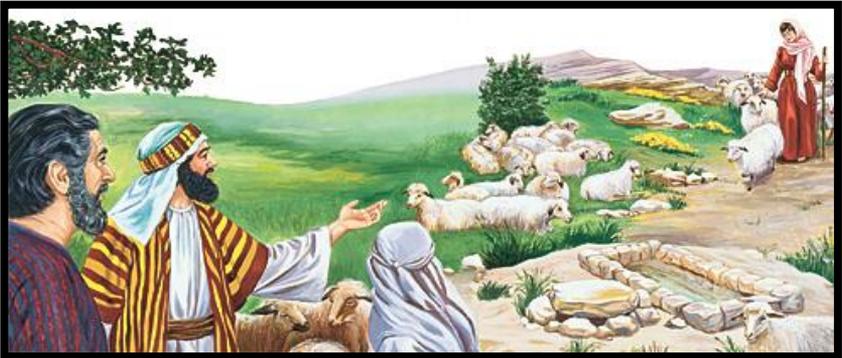
When we tithe into God's kingdom like Jacob did, we show that we have faith like Jacob to build the house of God, showing God that everything we have belongs to Him because He is our Lord - and He pours out blessing to us!

Malachi 3:10 *“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”*

May God help each one of us to give all that we are to Him, of our time, our talents, and of our finances given to spread the Gospel, that His glory may shine through us and His blessings come down!

9. GOD LED JACOB TO HIS RELATIVES IN HARAN.

Genesis 29:1-10 “Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. ² And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth. ³ And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. ⁴ And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, **Of Haran are we.** ⁵ And he said unto them, **Know ye Laban the son of Nahor?** And they said, We know him. ⁶ And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, **Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.** ⁷ And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them. ⁸ And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep. And **while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them.**”



Jacob had walked for a long, long time until he came to a well in a field, and as so often happens when we trust in the Lord, God led Jacob to exactly the right place at the right time! The shepherds were waiting for all the shepherds to arrive, so that together they could lift the heavy stone from the mouth of the well and water their sheep. Jacob asked the men if they knew his uncle and of course they did, and there was his uncle's daughter coming to water her sheep. Isn't God good to guide us safely when we ask! How much time we can save by simply asking God first and trusting Him.

10. JACOB WEEPS WITH JOY TO SEE RACHEL.

When Jacob saw his uncle Laban's daughter Rachel coming closer, he loved her at first sight. So with the super human strength of a man in love, he rolled that stone away to water Laban's sheep! Jacob was so overwhelmed with joy that he wept in a loud voice of God's goodness to guide him to his mother's family and bring him this beautiful girl to be his wife!

Genesis 29:10-12 “And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. ¹² And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father.”



Would a Godly young woman allow a strange man to kiss her? It appears to be the custom for greeting family members, as we see when Laban ran back to meet Jacob, he also kissed Jacob and brought him back to the family home to stay with them.

Genesis 29:13-14 “And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. ¹⁴ And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month.”

People today are not usually as affectionate, and surely it was not customary for men to give any woman a kiss who was not his wife or daughter or kinsman, but men did hug one another boisterously and would kiss one another on the neck. God's word still tells us that we should greet one another with a holy kiss!

2 Corinthians 13:12 “Greet one another with an holy kiss.”

11. LABAN AGREED TO GIVE RACHEL TO MARRY JACOB AS HIS WAGES FOR SEVEN YEARS WORK.

Genesis 29:15-20 “And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be? ¹⁶And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. ¹⁸And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. ¹⁹And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. ²⁰And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.”



When we love Jesus it will seem like nothing to serve Him all the days of our life! Jacob told Laban he would work for seven years if he could marry Rachel for his wages and Laban said yes! Laban knew that Jacob loved Rachel but he only pretended to agree that Jacob could marry Rachel while his real plan was to trick Jacob into marrying the less attractive sister Leah, by dressing the older girl as the bride hidden by the veil on their wedding day.

Genesis 29:21-24 “And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. ²²And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. ²³And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her....”

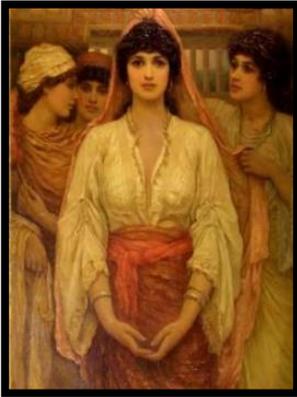


So after Jacob worked for seven years wages to earn the right to marry Rachel, the men of the palace prepared a big feast for the wedding! Jacob must have been very excited, but Leah was the bride taken to Jacob’s tent! **Jacob the deceiver had been deceived!** When the wedding feast was over, Jacob thought he went in to the marriage tent with his bride Rachel, but in the morning he found Laban had given him Leah instead!

12. JACOB IS DECEIVED TO SERVE 7 MORE YEARS.

Genesis 29:25-26 “And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, **What is this thou hast done unto me?** did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? ²⁶ And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.”

So after agreeing to 7 more years of work, Jacob married Rachel, and he loved her more than he loved Leah.



Genesis 29:27-30 “Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. ²⁸ And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. ²⁹ And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. ³⁰ And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.”

Leah was the first married, but her happiness was brief because her husband did not love her like he loved her sister Rachel.

Genesis 29:31 “And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.”

God knew of the unfair deception that Jacob had suffered, but God expected more from Jacob and would not bless him while he was being unfair to hate Leah. God also hinders our prayers when we are unfair or unkind to our loved ones, because He desires that we love one another with compassion and courtesy.

1 Peter 3:7-8 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as **being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.** ⁸ Finally, **be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.**”

13. WE CAN CHOOSE DECEPTION OR BLESSING.

What can we learn from the mistakes Jacob made during his years with Laban? Perhaps if Jacob had noticed another's feelings and showed some compassion, God may have changed the course of events and Jacob have avoided bringing judgment upon himself.

COMPASSION We can see that Jacob was wrong in having a lack of compassion in his treatment of Leah, but how about us? **How do we treat those who are forced upon us, when we are put in a position to work with someone, or to be partnered in a game or at work, with someone whom we really do not like?** Do we turn our face away to make it clear that we do not want to work with them, even though the partnering is through no fault of their own? What does Jesus say to do?

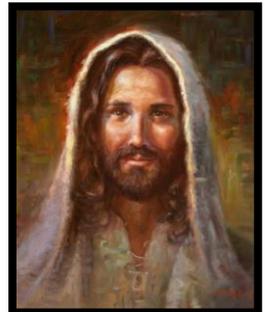
*Acts 10:34-35 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons:**³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."*

*Ephesians 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and **evil speaking, be put away from you,** with all malice:³² And **be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted,** forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

LOVINGKINDNESS What of those who hurt our feelings, or unfairly use us, or take things from us? Do we treat them with true heartfelt kindness, **or do we put on a happy face to deceive them while we cover real feelings of hatred and contempt?** How does Jesus say we should conduct ourselves?

*Luke 6:35 "But **love ye your enemies,** and **do good,** and **lend,** hoping for nothing again; and **your reward shall be great,** and ye shall be the children of the Highest: **for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.**"*

Jesus is kind to the unthankful and to the wicked. We will be blessed if we walk as Jesus walked, to be like Him our highest goal!



14. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU & ME

1. I can forgive others because Jesus has forgiven me.
2. I will reap sad consequences if I choose to sin, but Jesus will always love me.
3. Jesus will bless me when I have faith in Him and show that I believe by keeping His commandments because I love Him.
4. When a hard obstacle is in my way, instead of complaining, I can turn the obstacle into blessing like Jacob did with the rock.
5. God's promises are for me because His Spirit lives in me!
6. God wants me to watch and wait for Jesus so I will not miss His coming.
7. I can learn from Jacob to be patient and never give up when things go wrong.
8. We should try our best to really know one another.
9. Impossible things are possible when I have faith in Jesus to help me!
10. Jesus shows lovingkindness to the unthankful, and to those who are evil, and so should I.

***Hosea 2:19-20** "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. ²⁰ I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD."*

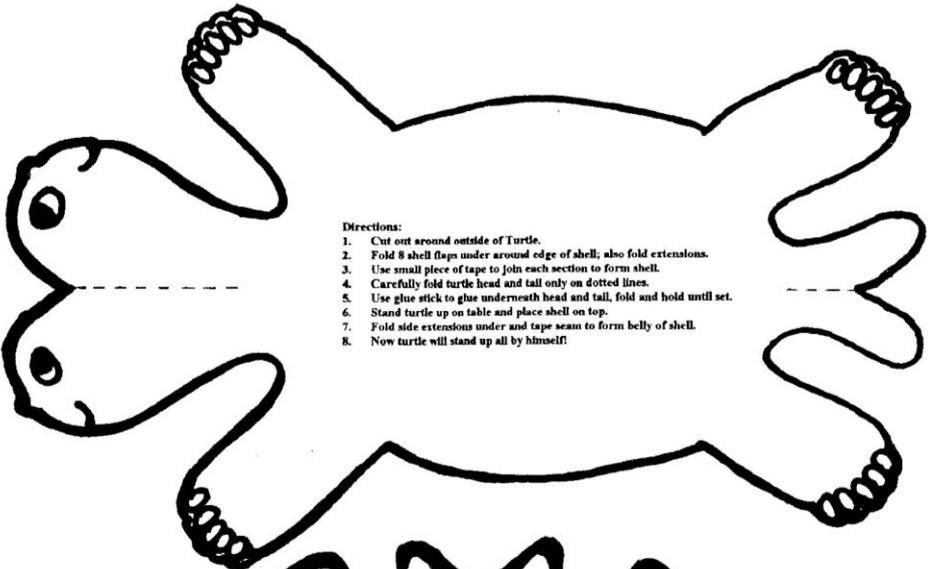
***Hebrews 6:10-12** "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

Our Father in Heaven, Dear Jesus, I surrender my whole heart to You right now, and pray You will cleanse me from every deceptive and unkind way. I pray You give me a heart of love, compassion, kindness and patience toward my family and for every person You bring into my path, so I will love them as You love them. Help me to have faith to believe, and to wait patiently for your blessing to come even as you have promised, in Jesus name, Amen.

15. GOSPEL CRAFT

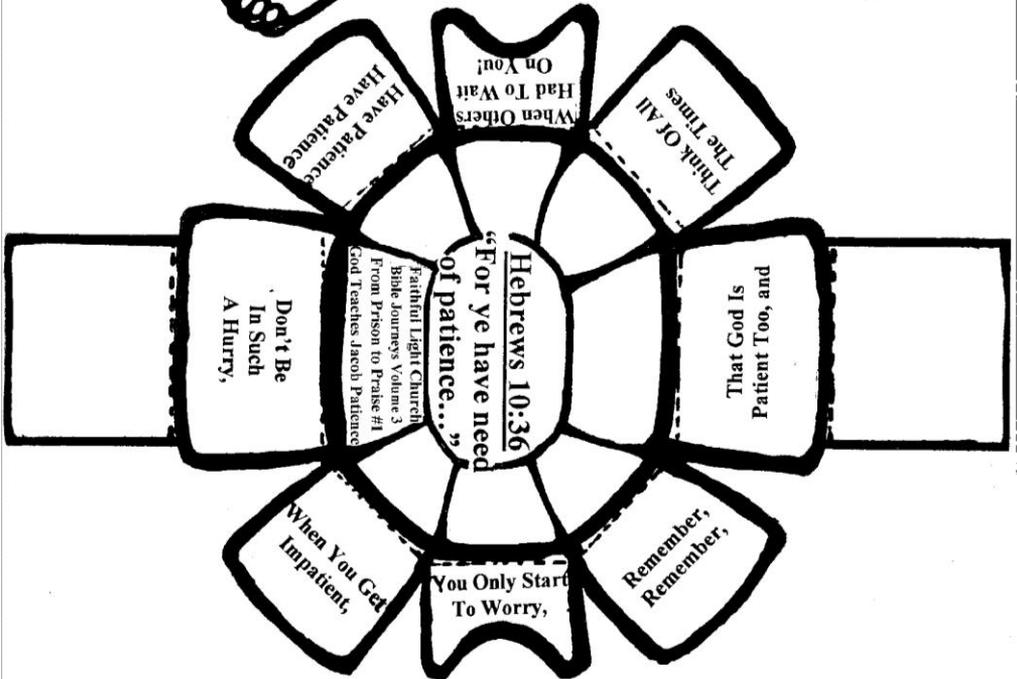
GOD TEACHES JACOB PATIENCE

Enlarge & Copy to 8 ½ x 11" Green Cardstock



Directions:

1. Cut out around outside of Turtle.
2. Fold 8 shell flaps under around edge of shell; also fold extensions.
3. Use small piece of tape to join each section to form shell.
4. Carefully fold turtle head and tail only on dotted lines.
5. Use glue stick to glue underneath head and tail, fold and hold until set.
6. Stand turtle up on table and place shell on top.
7. Fold side extensions under and tape seam to form belly of shell.
8. Now turtle will stand up all by himself!



16. TIME LINE COLORING PAGE

GOD TEACHES JACOB PATIENCE 1430 BC

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

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Then Jesus will show me His wonderful best.