


The background of the slide is a deep space image featuring a prominent, glowing nebula or galaxy core in shades of orange and yellow, set against a dark, star-filled cosmic backdrop.

Genesis

The Story of God And Humanity

The background image is a dramatic landscape. In the foreground, there is a body of water reflecting the colors of the sky. A wooden pier or dock extends from the right side into the water. In the middle ground, there are dark, silhouetted mountains. In the background, there are more mountains, some of which are covered in snow and are illuminated by the warm, orange and red light of the setting or rising sun. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, some of which are lit up from below by the sun, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene.

Jacob

A Life of Deception And Blessing.

The Birth of Jacob And Esau

Genesis 25:21-26 (NLT2)

Isaac pleaded with the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The LORD answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins. But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask the LORD about it. "Why is this happening to me?" she asked.

And the LORD told her, “The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son.”

And when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins! The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau. Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau’s heel. So they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born.

The Beginning of the Tensions

- God decides that Jacob, the younger brother, not Esau, the firstborn, will continue the line of Abraham and received God's promise.
- Isaac favored Esau, the older, “manly” hunter and, as far as the text reveals, is unaware of what the Lord had told Rebekah about the older serving the younger.
- Rebekah favored Jacob, the younger, quiet, home-body and thinks she must actively ensure the blessing passes to him, even if it takes deception.



God's Plan, Along With Family And
Personal Dynamics,
Feed Tensions Between
Jacob And Esau.

We See It Played Out Over And Over
In The Following Scenes Of
A Two Act Drama.

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds tinged with orange and red light from the low sun. In the background, a range of rugged mountains with snow-capped peaks is visible. The foreground features a calm body of water that perfectly reflects the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the mountains. On the right side, a wooden pier extends into the water, with a lone figure standing on it, looking out towards the horizon. The overall mood is serene yet dramatic.

Act I

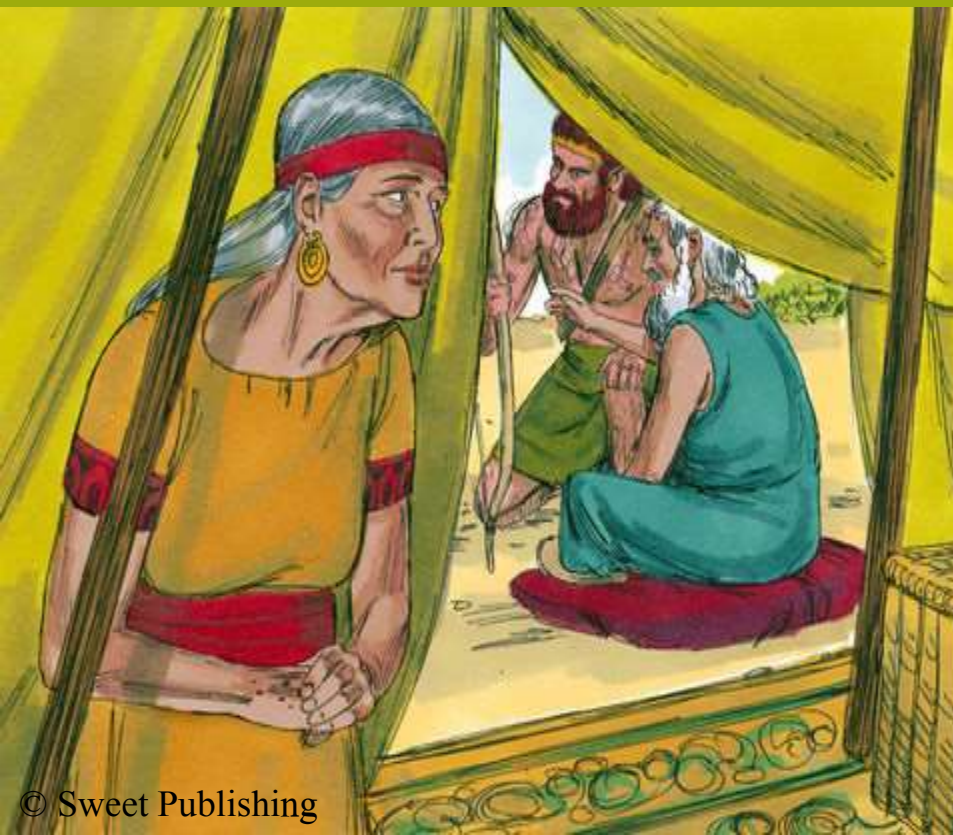
Scene I – Esau Sells Jacob His Birthright



Scene I – Jacob Takes Advantage of Esau



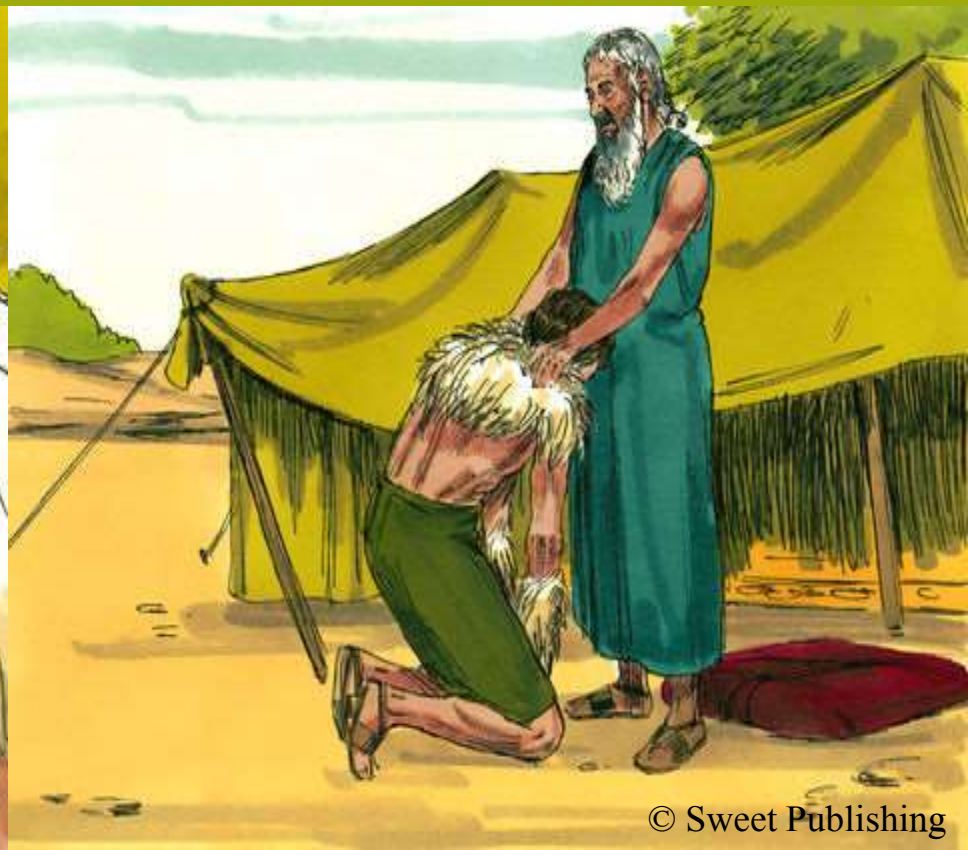
Scene II – Rebekah Plots To Deceive Isaac



Jacob Goes Along And Deceives His Father



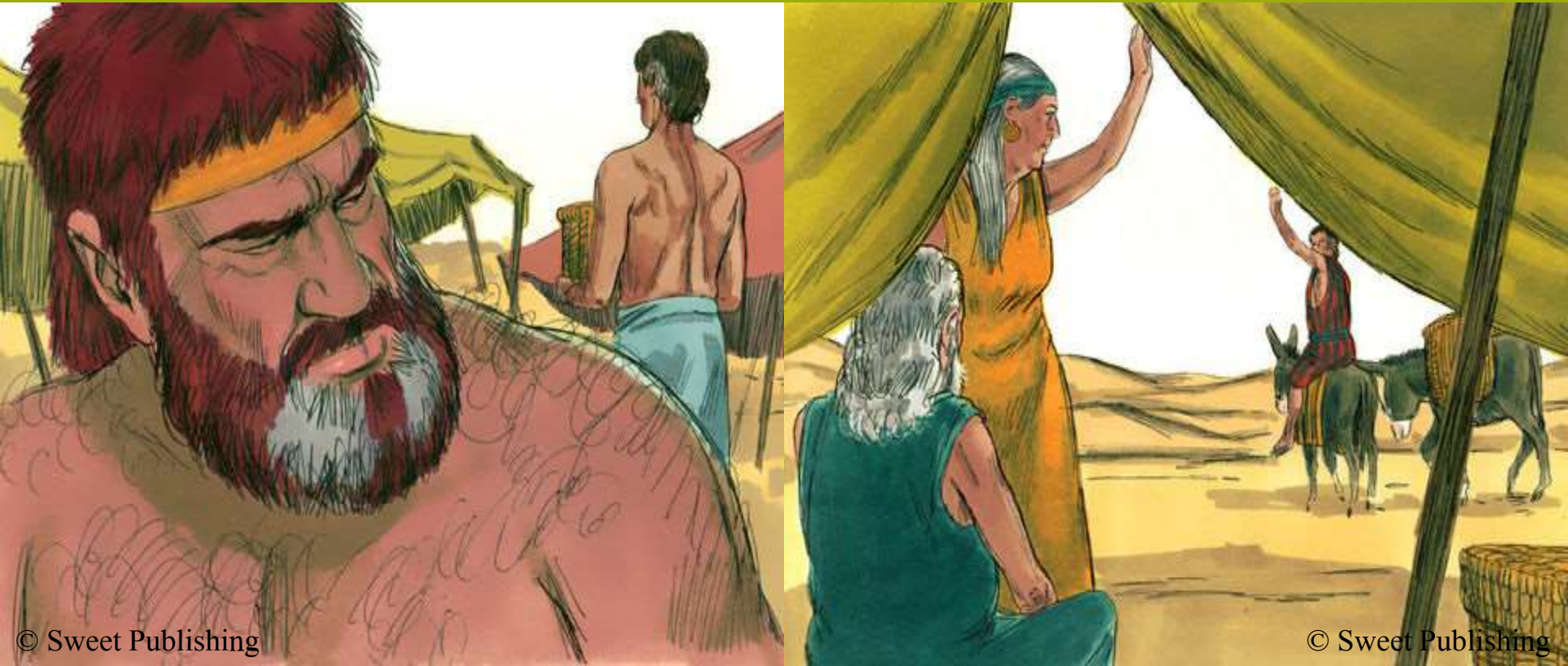
Jacob Receives The Blessing



Esau Begs For A Blessing



Tensions Lead To Jacob's Exile



Scene III – Jacob Travels To The Home Of Uncle Laban In The Region Of Harran



Laban Is Rebekah's Brother.

**Laban Has
Two Daughters,
Rachel And Leah,
Jacob's First Cousins.**



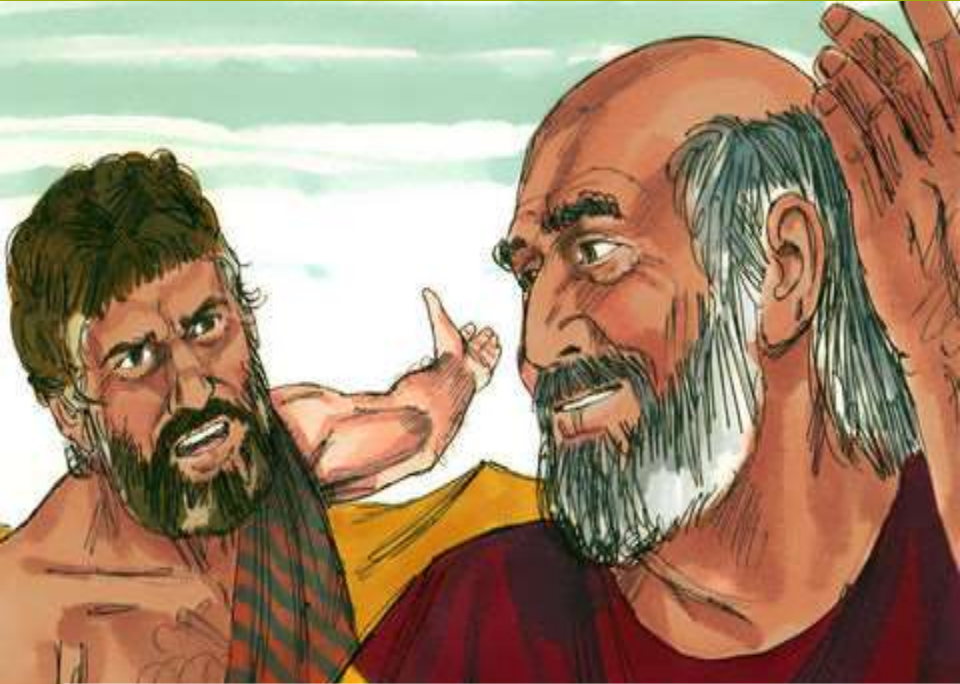
Jacob Sees Rachel; It's Love At First Sight So Jacob Makes A Deal For Rachel.



Scene IV – Seven Years Later, Laban Perpetrates A Marriage Deception

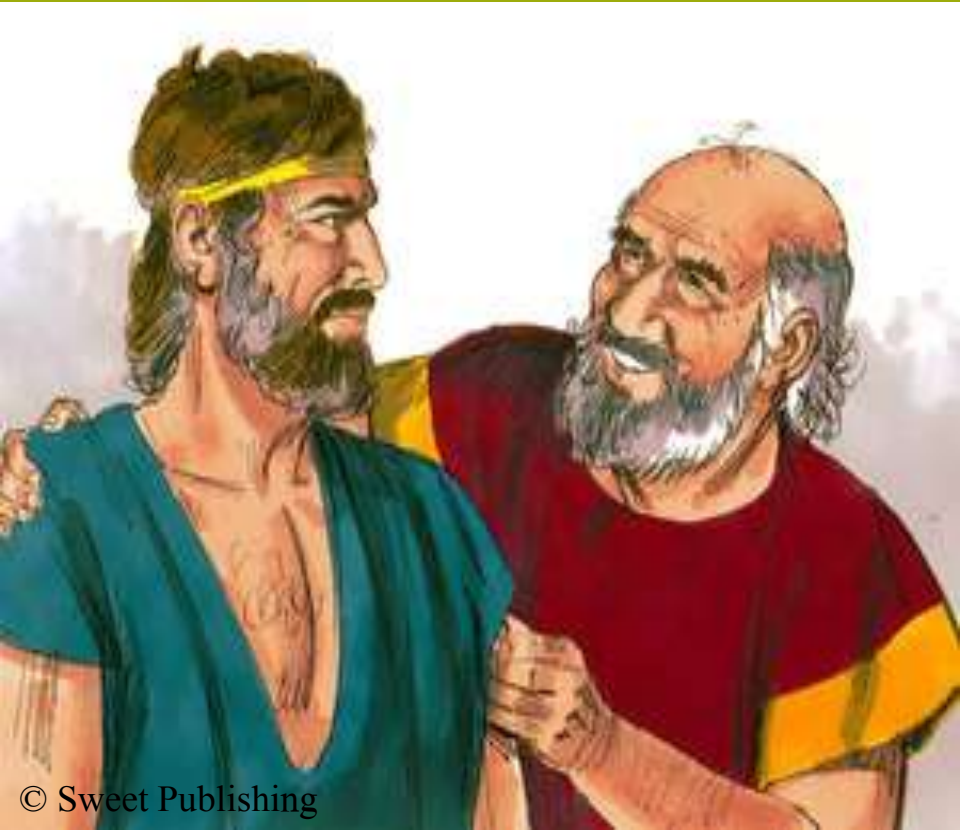


A New Deal Is Struck, Seven Days Later, Jacob Marries Rachel



Jacob Agrees To Work Another Seven Years For Rachel.

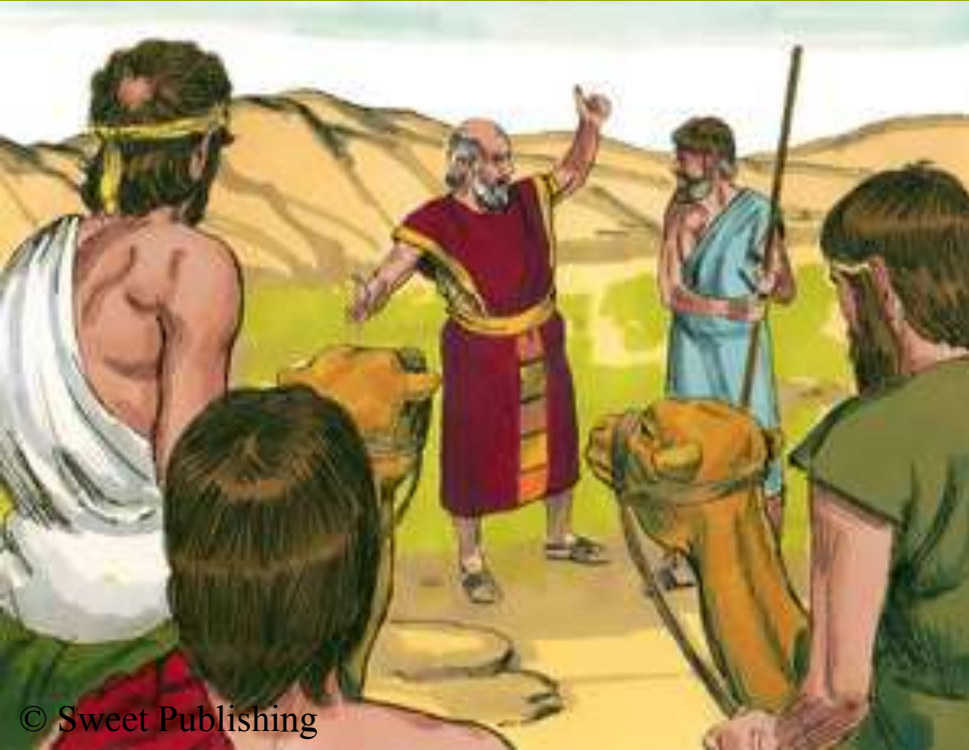
Scene V – Laban Knows A Good Thing When He Sees It. He Makes Another Deal.



**God Blesses Jacob With Many Flocks.
Laban's Sons Are Jealous And Make Laban So.
God Tells Jacob, "It's Time To Leave."**



Laban Hears Jacob And His Daughters Left, Is Angry, And Goes After Them And Accuses Jacob Of Stealing His Idols



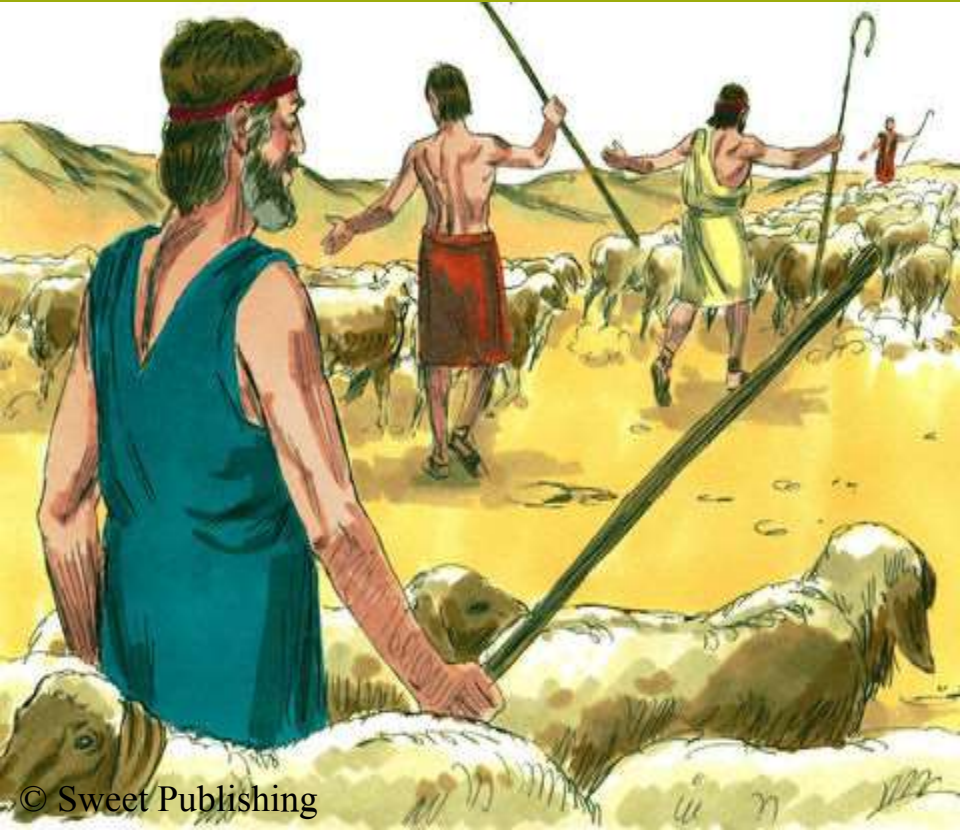
God Warns Laban To Leave Jacob Alone And Eventually Jacob And Laban Strike A Treaty.



Scene VI – Jacob Enters Canaan And An Anxious Encounter With Esau.



Jacob Divides His Flocks As Defense Tactic



Jacob Sends Esau A Gift (Perhaps For Cheating Him Of His Blessing)



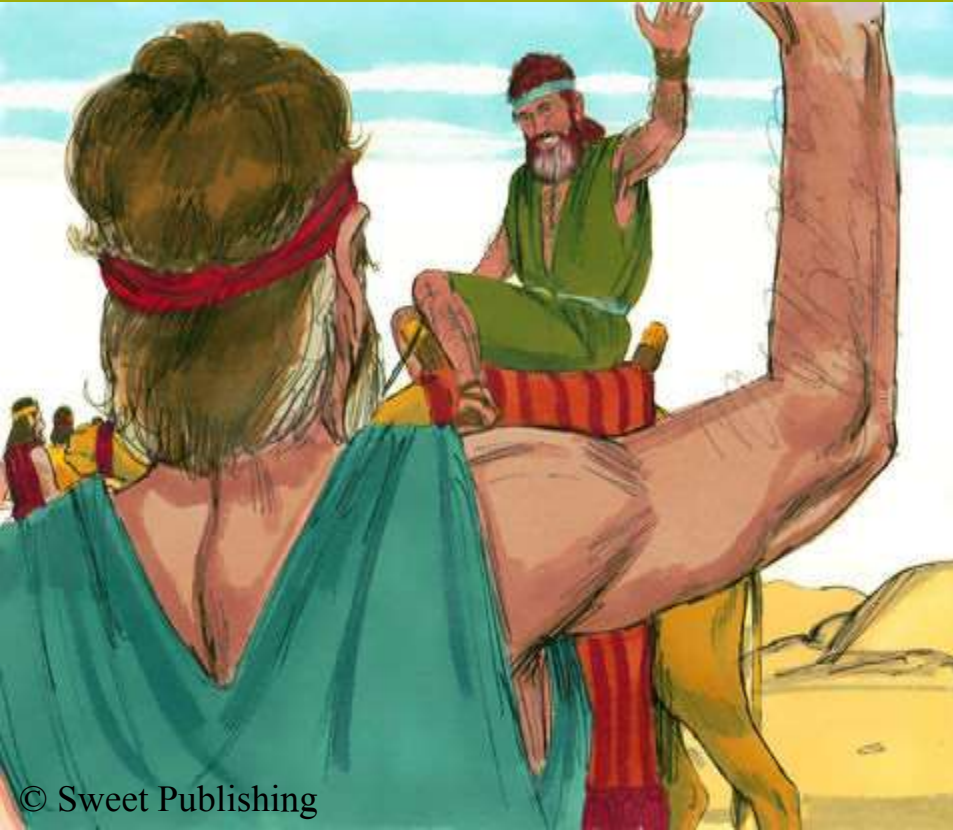
Jacob Sends His Family Across The River Jabbok And Stays Alone In The Camp.



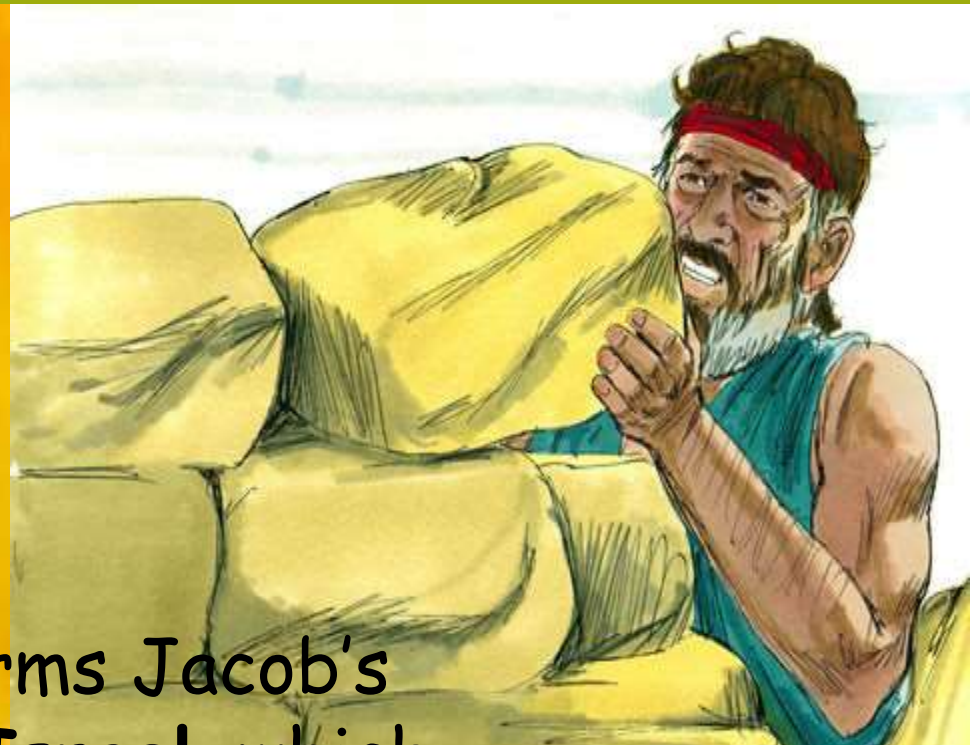
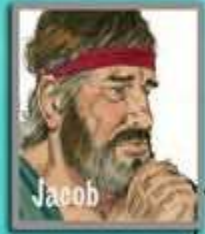
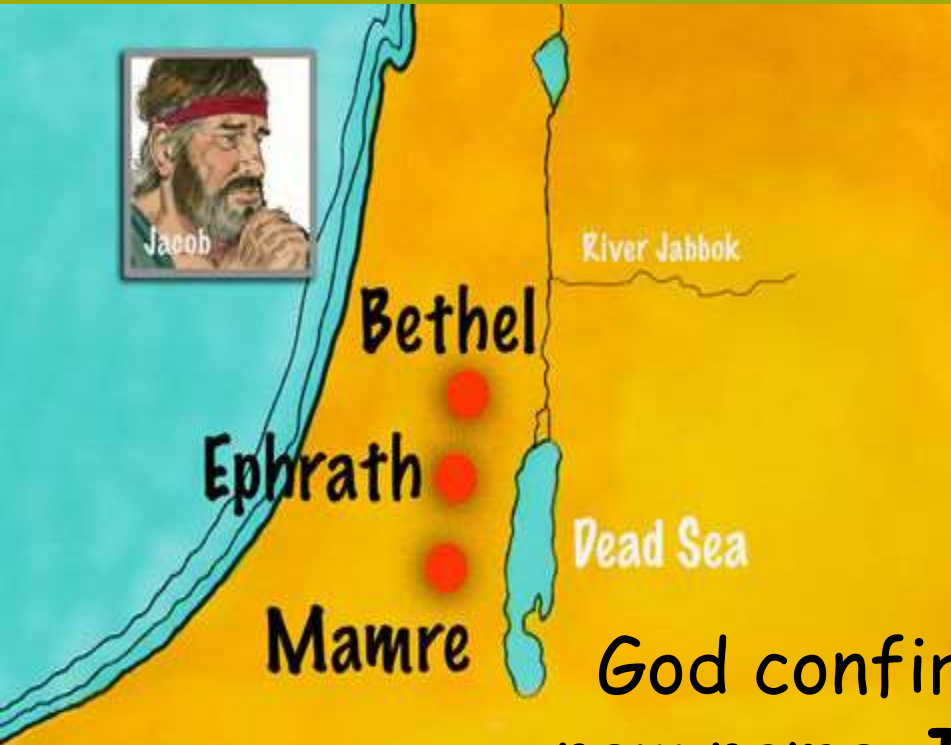
Jacob And Esau Reconcile



Scene VII – God’s Plan Takes Them In Different Directions. Jacob Deceives Again.



Because Of An Incident At Shechem, God Told Abraham To Move To Bethel.



God confirms Jacob's
new name, **Israel**, which

Epilogue

Rachel Dies Giving
Birth To Benjamin.

Jacob And Esau Reunite
At The Death Of Isaac.

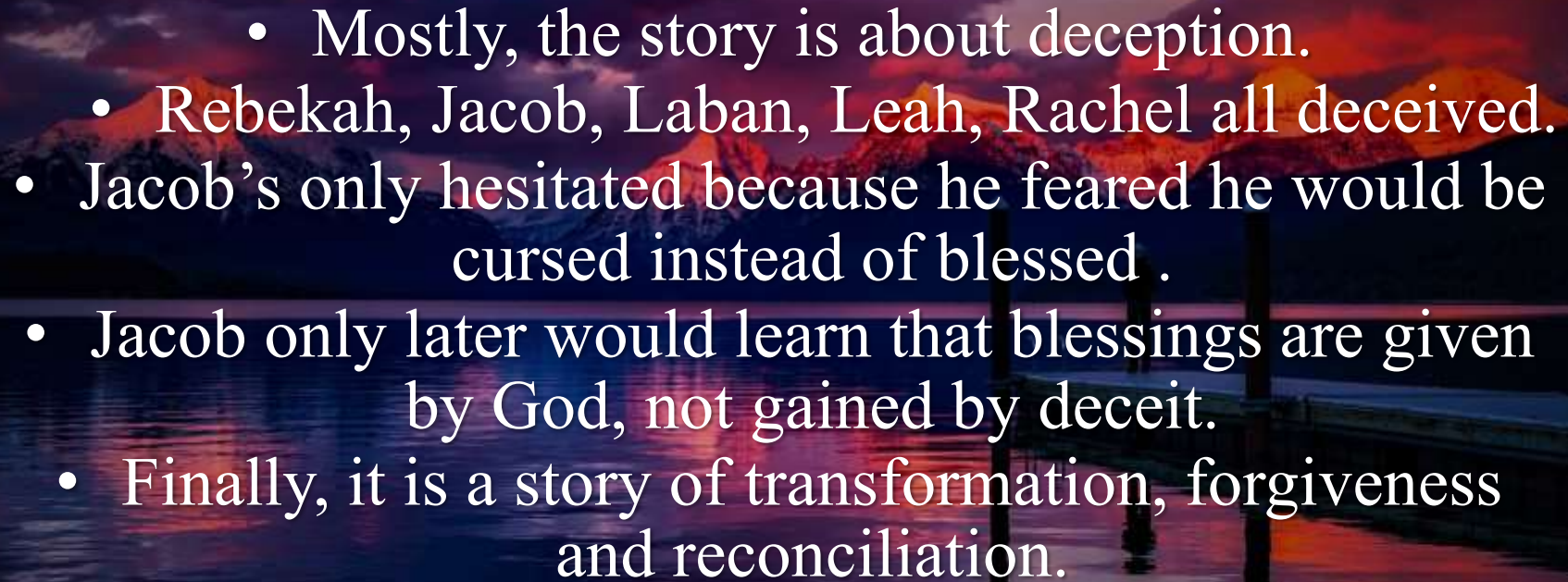




What Do We Learn From Act I Of The Story Of Jacob?

Lessons Learned

- Parental favoritism can tear a family apart.
- Rebekah and Jacob's plan succeeded, but they gained nothing and lost much.
- God would have given Jacob what he needed anyway.
 - God worked His Plan regardless of their deceit.
- God used their activities in doing what He predicted.
- God is sovereign and His plans will triumph, with, without, or often, in spite of our sinful actions.

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- Mostly, the story is about deception.
 - Rebekah, Jacob, Laban, Leah, Rachel all deceived.
 - Jacob's only hesitated because he feared he would be cursed instead of blessed .
 - Jacob only later would learn that blessings are given by God, not gained by deceit.
 - Finally, it is a story of transformation, forgiveness and reconciliation.