

Genesis (Quality: Good)

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Date: 15 July 1990

Preacher: Cottingham, Peter (1947 - 2014)

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CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS
CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS Feeling much to neither, Lord's gracious help, I
direct your thoughts to Genesis chapter 32, and the first close in verse 24.

Genesis chapter 32, the first close in verse 24, And Jacob was left alone.

[4 : 2 8] And Jacob was left alone. His kindred, his friends, his servants, everything in this world,
everything of the flesh.

What a blessed position he was found in there. In trial, in need, but where do we find him?

Leaning, leaning hard upon his beloved. Leaning upon his covenant God.

Leaning upon the promises that the Lord had granted unto him. And here we have a
trembling soul that has been brought to the fulfilling of what the Lord had promised unto
him.

That he should return in peace and be brought back in prosperity. Into and unto his
father's house.

[6 : 0 6] And yet, what does he see? What does Jacob see before him? The end. In his feelings of
everything.

And yet, the gracious fulfilling of what the Lord had spoken unto him.

The interval of service. Seeking that the Lord might give unto me his own word to come
with.

And this is indeed one of my greatest fears. Is being left to my own spirit. And to come
with a word that is not of the Lord.

For one thing I do know. That if I am left to this. Firstly, there will be no profit for souls.
Secondly, there may even be a stumbling block.

[7 : 1 9] That is placed before them. And so, as I besought the Lord that he might give me his own
words.

As we felt that we had come to the end. As the Lord had led us into his word this morning.
Those of you that were not here.

It spoke of it in this way. That the hand of the Lord was with them. And it is our desire to
join together.

If it is the Lord's will. Once was spoken this morning. With this word this evening. And the
account that we have before us.

Of Jacob. And how it is so evident. In his experience. As it is so evident. In the experience.

[8 : 23] Of every child of God. That the Lord is truly. With them. My thoughts immediately go to. David. When he was. Pursued by Saul. How. Time and again. The Lord appeared. And delivered him. And even on the occasion. When he. Escaped for a while. From the persecution. Of Saul.

That. There. He could not rest. There. He could not abide. For the Lord. Had. Anointed him. To be king.

Over Israel. And he must return. And he was brought. To the place. Where. All that he had. In this life.

[9 : 22] In. We might say. The twinkling of an eye. In a moment. Was taken from him. And further than this. He was in much distress.

In his. Experience. Because. Those friends. Who had supported him. And been with him. Over. And in many dangers.

Over many months. They. Turned against him. Because the trouble. Befell them. As well as it did. Upon. David.

And if. The Lord. Has. Raised up any. To be. To be. To be. To be. An authority. Over others. To be a leader. Of others.

And when they have. A true feeling. For them. A concern. For them. Anything. That affects. Those that are under them. Affects them. Also. And I believe.

[10 : 18] This was so. With David. I believe. It is so. With. The Lord's people. In different. Pathways. That they are found in. But I think.

Especially. Of those. That. Are raised up. Into positions. In the church. Of God. How. If the Lord. Has placed them there. And given them.

A love. And concern. For those. And we speak. This rightly. Those that are under them. That anything. That does affect them. That they feel.

A feel. For those. Who are in need. And. I think. Also. Of. Those. Whom. The Lord. Has raised up. As pastors. Over. Those flocks.

Of his. That. When there are. The distresses. When there are. The needs. That are found. Amongst his people. Those. Needs. Are felt.

[11 : 15] By him. If the Lord. Has truly raised up. One of his servants. There is. This concern. But. With David.

There was. This distress. For his people. For his followers. There was. The distress. In his own spirit. For his loved ones.

And. For all. That. This meant. But. What do we find. With David. In his distress. In his need.

He. Encouraged himself. In the Lord. His God. And here. We have. And Jacob.

Was left alone. David. Also. In his experience. He was left alone. And here. It speaks of. Being left alone.

[12 : 13] From the help of man. No arm of flesh. To help. To assist. To strengthen. To support us.

All these things. Are removed. No. There is nothing. To be found. In the world. And even in loved ones.

That are abiders. Oh. Do you know. Do you know. What it is. To have to. Lean. Upon. Your beloved.

As it is spoken of. Who is this. That. Cometh up. Out of the wilderness. Leaning. Upon. Her beloved. A precious.

Sweet truth. This is. What does it. Bring to our thoughts. Being brought up. Out of the wilderness. Leaning. Upon.

[13 : 09] Their beloved. But. In the wilderness. They have had. Their beloved's. Help there. So it was. With Jacob here.

So it was. In the case. Of David. No man. To help them. So it will be. In your experience. In your pathway. Whether you are.

In the midst. Of it now. Whether the Lord. Has brought you. Out of it. Or. Whether the Lord. May be pleased. To bring you. Into this pathway. That you will have to.

Oh you will have to lean. Lean upon him. And not. Upon an arm of flesh. And Jacob. Was left alone.

As I was saying. Desiring. Then. The Lord. May give to me. A word. For you.

[14 : 05] This evening. It came to me. In this way. Yes. There is the prayer. There then.

Is the walking. Out. Of the experience. There then. Is the fulfilling. Of it. And.

We might say. That there is. Greater. Trembling. And fear. And. More fervent prayer. In the time.

Of fulfilling. Than. In the time. When there is. The beginning. Of it. And so. As I brought. Before you.

Those. A few verses. In the. 28th. Chapter. I was. Going. Just to read. The first. The. Just the last.

[15 : 03] Few verses. There. But I felt. As. I looked. To the verse. Before. And he called. The name of that place. Bethel. Truly.

In his need. When he was. Left alone. When he knew. What it was. To supplicate. At the throne. Of grace. When he knew.

What it was. To be fervent. In prayer. There. Where there was. No comfort. Whether it was. In his. Circumstances.

And there was. No comfort. Of his. Family. Or friends. There. He was. Alone. But oh. He had the comfort. Of the Lord's.

Presence. And he could. Truly say. It was. The house. Of God. Unto him. And I believe. That you.

[15 : 55] Will be. Enabled. To say this. Whether it is. Here. In your own. Home. Whatever. It might be. Wherever. It might be. When you are.

Brought. To real. Exercise. And when you are. Brought. To real. Prayer. It will be. The house. Of God. To your soul. But this.

Will not. Be the end. Of the matter. Where there is. Real. Vital. Prayer. And exercise. Before the Lord. There will be.

A walking. Out of that pathway. Now this pathway. May be over. Many years. But what. As the Lord. Promised. That what.

He has spoken. He will surely. Fulfill. He will surely. Bring to pass. We have the evidence. Of it. In the word of God. You have the evidence.

[16 : 52] Of it. In your own experience. Here a little. And there a little. You have the evidence. evidence. But.

When we are. In this time. Of walking out. What the Lord. Has spoken. How these things. Can seem to be impossible.

And we might say. Lord. How can these things be? How can there be. A fulfilling of it? And I would further say. Unto you. The Lord.

May be pleased. To. Destroy your hopes. In an outward way. To appearances.

To bring to note. What he has spoken. And yet. There will be. A performance. There will be.

[17 : 52] A fulfilling. Of what he has spoken. A fulfillment. And it will be. In such a way. That you will see. That it is the Lord. And the Lord himself.

That has performed it. Speaking then. Of the case. Of David. And those of you. That may have wondered. In what way.

I am speaking. It was the time. When. When. The city. Of Ziklag. Was taken. And burned. With fire. And. All those of. David's. His wives.

His loved ones. And those. That were with him. Were taken captive. And he. Inquired. Of the Lord. His God. And what did he say. Shall I.

Pursue. Shall I rise up. Shall I go after. Shall I pursue. After this truth. And what did the Lord. Say to him. Oh.

[18 : 49] Do you feel. Do you feel. In your experience. That. You've lost. That precious time. When the Lord. Did come.

With power. Into your soul. When he. When his word. Dropped with sweetness. Into your soul. You feel. It's gone. You've lost it.

To return. No more. What did the Lord. Say. Rise up. They shall. Surely. Overtake.

And. Recover. All. And. Jacob. Jacob. Was left alone.

David. Was left alone. Each one. You. Sinner. Oh. You will be left alone. But you will not.

[19 : 45] You will not. You will not be left. Without. Help. One thing. That you will prove. In this walking out.

Of what. The Lord has brought you into. That he. Will be with you in it. Oh yes. He.

Will be with you. In this path. God. And when you see. That there is. A performance of it. When you have felt. That there has been.

A bringing to nothing. In this. Then you will see. It is his work. And you would not. Have had it.

In any other way. How prone we are. In our thoughts. How prone we are. In ourselves. To.

[20 : 38] To scheme. And to plan. And to work out. What the Lord has spoken. Our thoughts. Go here and there. And we say. We believe.

That the Lord. Will perform. A certain thing. And we say. Well. If this or that. Is brought to pass. Then there will be. A fulfilling of it. We can. Almost see. In our mind's eye.

Of. How the Lord. Will bring these things. To pass. And. Oh. The Lord. In his mercy. He shows. To his people. That. His thoughts. His ways.

Are not our thoughts. And not our ways. And blessed be God. That this is so. What would we find.

If there was. A working out. According to. Our own thoughts. Our own ways. Pride. Pride. Pride. Would come in.

[21 : 37] You would say. Begin to think. Well. I have done this. Do you feel this so often.

The pride of your heart. Comes up. At those times. When. You would not have it to be so. But the Lord is merciful.

He knows how to keep. And. Bring his people low. To keep them in the right. In their right place. At his feet.

Well. It was so. With David. It was so with Jacob. It will be so with you. Jacob. Jacob.

Could see. And David. Could see. That there was nothing. That they could do. Nothing. There they were. Everything.

[22 : 40] Taken from them. But in this. The Lord. Gave this promise.

To Jacob. Jacob. To Jacob. To Jacob. He had to. Flee. From the wrath. Of his brother. Esau.

He had to flee. And go. Into the wilderness. Into a strange land. And he dwelt.

In that strange land. Many years. Now I know. The case of Jacob. How he deceived. His father. To obtain the blessing.

Is a point. That. Is of concern. To the Lord's people. But in many. Of these things.

[23 : 38] The Lord. Overrules. All. Of these matters. For girls. Jacob. Through his deceit.

Knew what it was. In his turn. To be deceived. By his uncle. Laban. He knew what it was. To. Be in a pathway.

That. We might say. His brother. Had walked in. And yet. The Lord's promise. Was with him. And what did the Lord.

Say to him. 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. What did we say earlier.

[24 : 39] There's a walking out. Why is there a walking out? There must be an experiencing. There must be a handling.

Tasting. Feeling. Of what the Lord has spoken. For it to be sealed home. Upon the soul. I do fervently believe this.

How was it in the case of Simon Peter? What did the Lord Jesus Christ say to him? Simon. Simon. Satan. Satan hath desired to have you.

That he may sift you as wheat. But. I have prayed for thee. That thy faith. Fail not. Now the Lord has promised.

To keep his people. To preserve them. But there is still. This walking out. If we are. Preserved.

[25 : 41] From danger. So that we never see the danger. We do not have. The realization. That we have been preserved from it. Now I know that.

There are many times. I believe. In the lives of the Lord's people. When they have been kept. And preserved. And that they may not have known. Anything about it. Perhaps they have heard of it.

At a later time. But I believe also. That many of you could say this. That you have been preserved. There has been something.

That has come very very close. And as we might speak of it. But. Just. A second earlier. Or a second later. In the place where we were.

And great danger would have come upon us. So that the Lord. Has shown to us. The danger.

[26 : 37] He has shown to us. That he has preserved us from it. Well in the case of Simon Peter. The promise was given to him. But he must walk it out.

And how did he walk it out? Sir. I know not this man. When there are those that said.

Surely. Are thou with him. What did Simon Peter say to his Lord? I will go with thee. To prison and even unto death.

Death. When the danger came. He followed afar off. When he was accused of being with the Lord.

And one of his. He denied him. And with oaths and with curses. He denied him. But what did the Lord say to him. But I have prayed for thee.

[27 : 39] That thy faith fail not. And how is that made evident to Simon Peter. When the cock crew. He remembered.

What the Lord had spoken to him. And the Lord turned and looked upon him. And he went out. And he wept bitterly.

What did I say? A fulfilling of what the Lord had promised. The fulfilling is to be found in those bitter tears that Peter shed. If there had not been a fulfilling of it.

There would have been this hardness. This rebellion. This that would have said. I am not him. But no Peter was broken down.

There was this. True forgiveness. There was this that said to Simon Peter. Thou art mine.

[28 : 44] I have loved thee with an everlasting love. That thy faith fail not.

Peter went out and wept bitterly. And Jacob was left alone. I don't believe I'd be wrong in saying this.

That when Simon Peter went out and wept bitterly. That it was with prayer. Oh it was with much much prayer. And it is with every child of God.

A pathway of prayer and a pathway of exercise. Behold I am with thee. Will keep thee in all places whither thou goest. And will bring thee again.

What did we say at the beginning. There is the prayer. There is the walking out. And at the end.

[29 : 47] There is this. Greater exercise. This greater trembling before the Lord. As we see. The fulfilling. Of what the Lord has spoken.

What did Jacob say. And I believe this is also. In the experience of the Lord's people. When there is this.

This matter. That is of. Great importance unto them. What the Lord has placed upon their soul. They cannot leave it there.

There must be. This pleading again. And Jacob vowed a vow saying.

If God will be with me. And will keep me in this way that I go. The promise that the Lord had given. He had to plead. Now we know what Jacob said there.

[30 : 47] So that I come again to my father's house in peace. Then shall the Lord be my God. Not that he was saying that. The Lord is not my God.

At this time. I will wait. Until there is a performance. No. What he is meaning here is this. Then I shall know. Beyond all measure of doubt.

That the Lord is with me. And this is how the Lord leads his people. And is so gracious unto them. That there is an establishing. There is of setting their feet upon the rock.

There is this foundation stone. That is laid of their faith. That they can rest upon him. That they can know. That to the Lord.

He is their God. He is their hope. And he is their all. Yes. There is this establishing. There is this confirming.

[31 : 49] Is this what you desire? I believe. If you are one of the Lord's own dear people. This will be your constant desire.

Lord. Give me. A true token. How was it with Rahab? Yes. She desired that she might have.

A true token. And what was the token that was given to her. Her life. Would be spared.

And it was. But we cannot speak of that at this time.

We must continue with our thoughts here. What happened then with Jacob? Jacob. Well. All that. That happened to him.

[32 : 50] Trials. Difficulties. Dispensations. But the Lord was with him. The Lord was with him.

And this is what he proved. And the Lord prospered his way. And I believe. That those many years. That he spent in that land. Was a path of prayer.

And of exercise. And walking out. Of this promise. Now there came the time. When the Lord said to him. That he must arise.

And return. Return. To. His father's house. And the Lord said.

Come to Jacob. Return. Return. Return. Return. Return. To the land. Of thy fathers. And to thy kindred. What did the Lord say? And I will be with you. I will be with you. And not.

[33 : 52] This is not an empty promise. No. This is what the Lord. The Lord. Spoke to one in need.

And the promise. That the Lord. Speaks to his people. To you. When you are in time of need. It will not be an empty promise. No. It will be something.

That will be fulfilled. God. We come then. To this time. When Jacob had to. Put everything before him.

And he was left alone. In fear. In fear. Have you wondered this.

In your experience. And perhaps Satan. Has said to you. Well. Was there anything in it?

[34 : 52] Here you are. And you are in fear of man. If the Lord has promised. To be with you. If the Lord has promised. To supply your need. If the Lord has promised. To appear for you. And what is this?

You are afraid of man. And what he can do unto you. Where is your faith? Is this what you feel? You have no faith?

You cannot hope and trust. As once you did. How did Jacob feel here? Yes. He had trusted in the Lord. And the Lord had prospered him.

And now at the very fulfilling. Of what God had spoken. He had this great fear. Of his brother. A natural fear.

A right fear. A deserved fear. But you might say. Well. I have this fear. And this fear says.

[35 : 53] How can there be any reality now? You see it all being destroyed. All brought to nothing. There's been a bringing down. When you believe. That there would be a building up.

May you then have the experience. That Jacob knew at this time. And there wrestled a man with him.

Until the breaking of the day. And what did Jacob say? I will not. I cannot.

Oh there is this. That is within me. That I cannot give it up. Why? For the Lord has laid it upon my spirit.

I believe that this is the Lord's work. I believe that he will perform it. I can see the enemies. I can see everything is against me. But I must press on. What did the disciples say to the Lord Jesus Christ?

[36 : 59] I think of the time when there were those that forsook him. Because of those hard sayings. They turned and walked no more with him.

And the Lord Jesus said to his disciples. To the twelve. Will ye also go away? And Simon Peter said to him. Lord. To whom can we go?

Thou hast the words of eternal life. There is nowhere else that we can flee to. It is a lesson. Perhaps a painful lesson.

That you have had to learn. You have known what it is. To rest upon your own self. You have known what it is. To rest upon others.

To lean upon an arm of flesh. As we speak of it. And the Lord. Oh in his gracious mercy unto you. He has taken all these things away.

[37 : 57] All these props. None of us know what. May lie ahead of any of us. And speaking to one of our friends.

Earlier on. Regarding the. Solemn. Time. A short while ago. When. When.

When. The dear one. Of one of the Lord's servants. Was. So suddenly taken. I often think of.

The support. The help. That's my own dear one. Gives to me. And in this. I sometimes tremble. When. When. When.

There is only one. That we should lean upon. How we need to be very careful then. I'm not saying anything.

[38 : 56] About. What has occurred. But this. Should it not make us tremble. Are we leaning upon others.

The Lord. And. He has been gracious. He's given help me. There are those of you here. Know what it is. That the Lord has given you a help me.

Perhaps for many. Many years. You have. Enjoyed. That. Union. Not only in the things of this life.

But also in the things of God. And you can look back. And say yes. The Lord. Provided you. Raised up one. And brought you together.

What a blessing. And mercy this is. But I think also. Oh. How we need to be kept. In this. That we do not make.

[39 : 54] An idol. We are not left. In any way. To. Lean. Upon others. Oh. There is then.

This. Lesson. That we need to. Be told. To learn. To lean. Only upon him. Jacob. Here. All those things.

That he loved. All those things. That he had worked for. All those things. That the Lord. Had prospered him in. He had to leave it.

But I think in this way. He could leave it. He could. Let those pass over. Send them over the brook. And leave them in the Lord's hand.

And if we are. A given this grace. So to do. To leave these things. In the hands of God. And to look to him.

[40 : 50] And to lean. Only upon him. That whatever the issue. Might be. We know that. There will be a working. Together for good. We know that.

There will be a fulfilling. Of what he has spoken. Whatever it is. This we will know. That it will be. According to his will and purpose.

What comes out of this then. The need for gracious. Submission. To his holy will. Has this been your prayer of late.

Lord. What wilt thou have. Me to do. Jacob was left alone. Until he had received the blessing.

Until he could see truly. That all this was of the Lord. He dare not let go. How is it with your soul.

[41 : 56] Is there something pressing. Pressing upon you. Now there is one thing I know. That will be with you.

Throughout your life. To a living child of God. That they cannot let go. And this is their cry.

What did we say earlier. To remind you again. There is the prayer. There is the exercise. There is the walking out of it. There is the fulfilling of it.

How is it? God. Be merciful to. Me a sinner. God. The language. The language. The thief upon the cross.

Lord. Remember me. When thou comest. Into thy kingdom. kingdom. This will be your language.

[43 : 05] Even unto the end. And what did the Lord. Consider this. In his sufferings. Oh.

And it speaks. Here of the remembrance. That the Lord has. And had. For his people. In the depth. Of his sufferings.

That he said. To that man. This day. Shalt there be with me.

In paradise. How is it with us. If we are in trouble. We are so caught up.

With everything. That we are found in. If we are in great need. We cannot think of others. Or anything else. But the Lord Jesus Christ. I consider another occasion. When he was.

[44 : 01] Weiried. It was in the middle of the day. Tired. Hungry. And thirsty. He sat thus. On the well. But when the woman.

Came to the well. Oh. There was one of his. That he must speak to. There was one of his. That he must draw forth. There was one of his. That he must. Give.

The water of life unto. And when the disciples. Came to him. And he said. I have had meat. To eat. That ye know not of. Why.

He had fulfilled. His father's will. And purpose. And then upon the cross. Oh. How there was the fulfilling. The fulfilling there.

But there was the remembrance. There was the feeling. There was the love. Toward his people. But this will be your true exercise.

[44 : 59] That the Lord. May wash you. In his precious blood.

That your sin. May all be taken away. That you might be cleansed. That your righteousness.

May be of Christ. That there might be nothing. Of yourself. And Jacob. Was left alone.

Now in an outward. Earthly way. All those things. Were taken from him. But I believe also. As it is. In the case. Of souls.

Everything. That they. Have. Looked upon. Within themselves. And how is it with you. Your own righteousness.

[46 : 00] Your own works. And Jacob. Was left alone. Have you known. What it is. For the Lord. To take away.

All these things. Those things. That you've been resting. Upon for eternity. He who heareth. These sayings of mine. And doeth. Them not.

I will liken him. Unto a man. That built. A house. Upon the sand. Well we know. The parable. And the one. That. Is spoken of. He who. Heareth. These sayings of mine. And doeth.

Them. Who built. A house. Upon the rock. One. That went forth. In his own strength. And relied.

Upon his own works. And one. That rested. Upon Christ. The rock. Of his salvation. And nothing else.

[46 : 57] Then. Oh this. This. This. That the Lord. Brings his people into. When they come.

Come to the end. Of their life. And Jacob. Was left alone. There is none. That can die for us. There is none.

That can stand. In our place. Friends. What did we say earlier. Jacob was left alone. All earthly friends.

Were taken from him. But there was one. That was with him. And it will be so. In the hour and article of death. There may be loved ones around us.

But oh. How there is one. That we shall need. And need so greatly. And that is Christ.

[47 : 58] And him only. Jacob was left alone. And so we shall be. What a wondrous mercy.

If there is one. If there is one with us. And that is. Christ Jesus. Amen.

Let us sing.

Hymn number. Six hundred and thirty one. Tune a rubric. Two hundred and fourteen.

Hymn number. Six hundred and thirty one.

The Lord himself. Be with you all. To teach you. His own will. And guide you safe. From every thrall. To Zion's heavenly hill.

[49 : 12] Be with you. To unfold his grace. And prove his truth. Divine. Unvile the plurals. Of his faith. And make his counsels.

Shine. Hymn number. Six thirty one. he ais, to find snow. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

[53 : 03] Amen. O Lord, we pray, take each to their homes and places of abode in peace and in safety.

Watch over each one day by day and in the journey through life. Amen. And Lord, keep now the enemy, the enemy of souls at bay.

Keep from temptation. Keep from evil. Grant adjourning mercies. And Lord, in life's journey, O bring us safely through to the end.

Amen. Now, we ask for thy forgiveness upon all that thy pure eyes have seen in this. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit, rest and abide with you each now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

[54 : 30] Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.