

# THE STORY OF GENESIS

Wrestling With God

Genesis 25 - 35

Part 4: April 27, 2026

# Control and Deception

Have you ever tried to control a situation to get what you wanted? Maybe you bent the truth, manipulated something, or just took matters into your own hands.

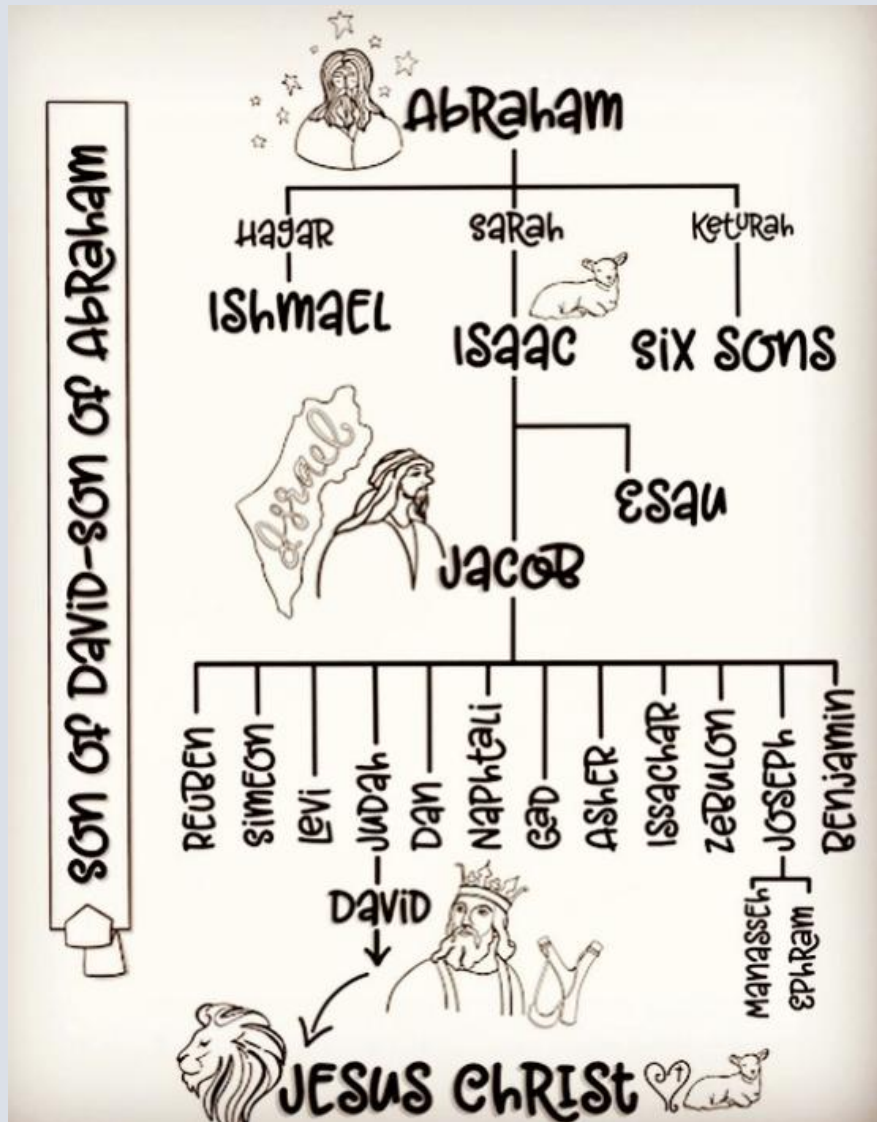
## **How about:**

- At School?
- Your Parents?
- With Friends?
- With Family?
- To Make You Look Cool?



The story of Jacob in the book of Genesis is about how he built his life on doing exactly that—and yet, God still chose him, changed him, and used him. But why?

# The Family Line of Abraham

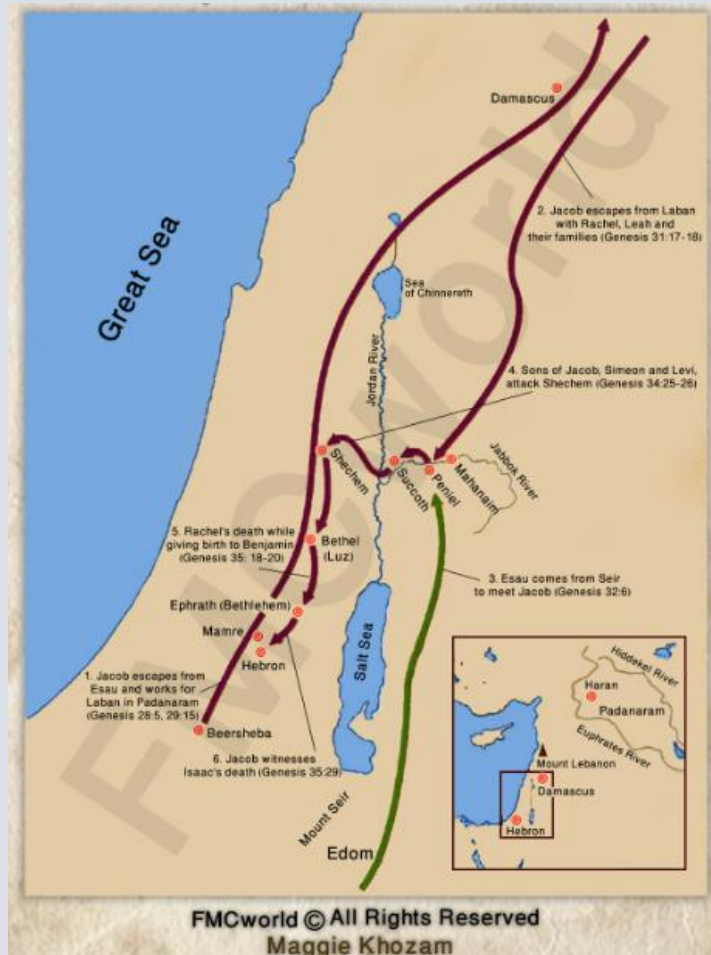


Today, we will find out how Jacob the deceiver, became “Israel” and how this fits into the story of the Jewish people.



# Where does our story take place?

الأم ماغي خزام – Old Testament/Maps



The story takes place in modern day Israel, before it became God's "promised land to the Jewish people."

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Later, the lands of Israel would be divided into areas named for Jacob's sons.

# Jacob the Deceiver

## Jacob takes advantage of his starving brother:

**Genesis 25: 29** Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. <sup>30</sup> He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” <sup>31</sup> Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.” <sup>32</sup> “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”



## Jacob takes advantage of his blind father:

<sup>18</sup> He went to his father and said, “My father.” “Yes, my son,” he answered. “Who is it?”

<sup>19</sup> Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn.....

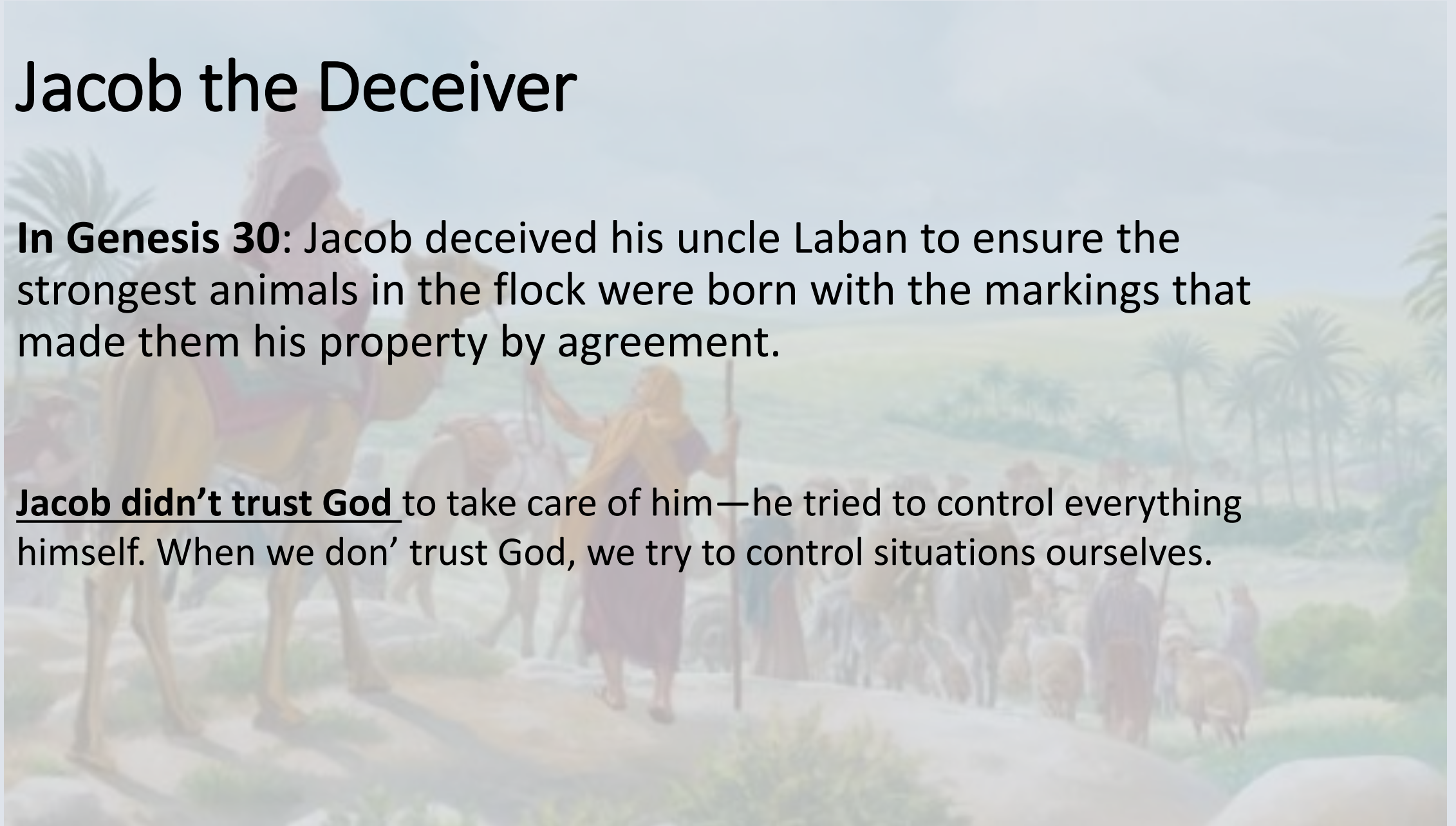
Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not.” <sup>23</sup> He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. <sup>24</sup> “Are you really my son Esau?” he asked. “I am,” he replied.



# Jacob the Deceiver

**In Genesis 30:** Jacob deceived his uncle Laban to ensure the strongest animals in the flock were born with the markings that made them his property by agreement.

**Jacob didn't trust God** to take care of him—he tried to control everything himself. When we don't trust God, we try to control situations ourselves.



# Consequences Catch Up to Jacob

Jacob has to run for his life from his brother Esau and his uncle Laban after they got angry for him deceiving them. And then the night before he has to face his brother, this happens:



# What can we learn from Jacob's Story?



? Why do you think God let him wrestle instead of just ending it?"

👉 Sometimes positive changes come through our struggle

? Jacob has a permanent injury that lasts for the rest of his life. This is the turning point.

👉 Sometimes God doesn't erase all consequences—but He gives them meaning."

👉 *God can use even painful consequences to shape us.*

!Stop trying to control everything. Start trusting God with it."