

Genesis 26:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the LORD.

Analysis

That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but... This passage belongs to the Jacob narratives which demonstrate God's sovereign election overriding human merit and the transformation of a deceiver into Israel, the father of the twelve tribes. The Jacob cycle shows how divine purposes advance through flawed individuals whom God graciously transforms.

Key themes include God's sovereign choice ("the older shall serve the younger"), the consequences of deception and family dysfunction, exile and return patterns, wrestling with God leading to blessing, and covenant renewal across generations. Jacob's character development from manipulative deceiver to mature patriarch demonstrates sanctification's lifelong process.

Theologically significant aspects include:

1. divine election based on grace not merit (Romans 9:10-13)
2. God's faithfulness to covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness
3. discipline as evidence of divine love and means of transformation
4. generational patterns of sin requiring divine intervention to break
5. prayer and wrestling with God as legitimate expressions of faith.

Jacob's limp after wrestling God symbolizes how divine encounters leave permanent marks, transforming our approach to life and dependence on God rather than our own cunning.

Historical Context

The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does this passage reveal about God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
2. How does this passage challenge modern cultural assumptions about identity, purpose, or morality?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	לֹא פָּאָשֶׁר	בְּעֵת הַעֲמָקָה	עָשָׂה יְכוֹנֵן	עָשָׂה יְכוֹנֵן	עָשָׂה יְכוֹנֵן
H518	That thou wilt do	H5973	us no hurt	H834	H3808
	H6213		H7451		
בְּלֹא עַמְקָה	רָאשָׁךְ יְכוֹנֵן	עָשָׂה יְכוֹנֵן	עָשָׂה יְכוֹנֵן וְ	בְּלֹא	unto thee nothing but
as we have not touched	H834	That thou wilt do	H5973		H7535
H5060		H6213			
בָּר וְעַתָּה	עַתָּה הַבָּשָׁלָה	אַתָּה הַבָּשָׁלָה וְ	עַתָּה הַבָּשָׁלָה	בָּר וְ	
good and have sent thee away	H7971	in peace	H859	thou art now	the blessed
H2896		H7965		H6258	H1288
הָתָה:					
of the LORD					
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 24:31 (Blessing): And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

Genesis 21:22 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Phichol the chief captain of his host spake unto Abraham, saying, God is with thee in all that thou doest:

Psalms 115:15 (Blessing): Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

Genesis 22:17 (Blessing): That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Genesis 12:2 (Blessing): And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

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