

# Genesis 28:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padan-aram;

## Analysis

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**And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padan-aram;...** 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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding this verse shape our doctrine of humanity, sin, or salvation?

2. How should this truth about Stone Pillar shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּשְׁמַע עֵשָׂו וַיַּעֲשֶׂה כַּאֲלֵיכָם

obeyed And that Jacob

H8085

אָבִיו וְאֶתְּנָאָל

H413

his father

H1

וְאֶתְּנָאָם וְאֶתְּנָאָמָה

and his mother

H517

וְלֹא

H1980

וְלֹא מֵצָאָה כְּלָמָדָה

H0

to Padanaram

H6307

## Additional Cross-References

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**Colossians 3:20** (Parallel theme): Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

**Proverbs 1:8** (Parallel theme): My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

**Proverbs 30:17** (Parallel theme): The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

**Ephesians 6:3** (Parallel theme): That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

**Ephesians 6:1** (Parallel theme): Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

**Exodus 20:12** (Parallel theme): Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

**Genesis 27:43** (Parallel theme): Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran;

**Leviticus 19:3** (Parallel theme): Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

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