

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible against a dark, starry background. Below the moon, a planet's surface is shown, with a bright, glowing horizon line. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric. The text "THE BOOK OF GENESIS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font. "THE BOOK OF" is in a smaller font size than "GENESIS".

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

FALTERING AND FAILING

GENESIS 33

Ever go from the mountaintop to the valley overnight?
Seeing God in an incredible way and then chickening
out when that mountaintop experience is tested.

- Praise God for His mercy and grace in our weaknesses, faults, and failures! Amen?
- What could have been a true biblical reconciliation is really just compromised peace instead of war for the sake of keeping circumstantial peace, not real peace.

WHAT WERE JACOB'S FAILURES?

- 1. He was scheming instead of trusting. v. 1-2**
- 2. He bowed down instead of humbly limping. v. 3-7**
- 3. He was begging instead of witnessing. v. 8-15**
- 4. He was promising, but not performing. v. 12-17a**

One thing was sure, Jacob went right back to his old ways and old name. He was scheming and deceiving again.

He was backsliding and it was going to cost him.

THE DANGER OF DELAYING v. 16-20

1. Jacob failed to be completely set apart and totally obedient.
2. It's obvious that Jacob wasn't in a hurry to obey God and return to Bethel.

For another example, turn to **1 Samuel 15**.

- Saul had been chosen by God as king, but in his disobedience he lost the blessing of God.
- Where Jacob is heading is wonderfully illustrated in this passage—doing your own thing, trying to help God out.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH SAUL?

- Here is the test, Saul. Let's see if you are ready to be king.
- Worldly covetousness: The Amalekites won't need this stuff and we will be rich!
- Lying and self-deception set in.
- Blame shifting: It wasn't me. It was those lousy people you gave me, Lord.
- Now the penalty for not living up to his name!

Saul died as one of the finest examples of wasted potential in all the Scriptures.

WE MUST BE DOERS OF THE WORD

- Obedience brings blessings. **James 1:22-25**
- Jacob was hearing, but not completely doing!
- Kind of like putting Christian bumper stickers on your car and getting mad for being pulled over for a DUI because you thought Jesus would protect you from the consequences of sin.
- Jacob took a very, very expensive detour.

He didn't live up to his new name.

THE PATH TO GOD'S BLESSINGS

- We won't need to scheme.
- We won't need to deceive.
- We won't need to try and buy affection.
- We won't need to make anyone lesser or greater.
- We will never have to bow to anybody but Him—
we only have one Lord!

Praise God for His amazing grace for our faltering and failures. ***Let's try not to repeat the mistakes of our past!***