

# The Story of Jacob

The careful structure shows the story's key emphases: God's faithfulness to his *promise* as 12 tribes of Israel come into being, and God's faithfulness to his *people*, as Jacob is disciplined through conflict and hardship

## A Jacob's birth: A nation & people promised (25:19-34)

- Oracle sought; struggle in childbirth; Jacob born

## B Threats from without: to land & seed (26:1-33)

- Rebekah in foreign palace; pact with foreigners
- God preserves despite conflict with pagans

## C Threat from within: covenant family (26:34-28:9)

- Dysfunctional family & the consequences of sin
- Jacob steals the blessing from Esau & flees the land

## D Covenant blessing on exiled Jacob (28:10-32:32)

- a Encounter with Angels at Bethel 28:10-22
- b Arrival at Haran, meeting with Laban in peace 29:1-14
- c Jacob outwitted by Laban 29:1-30
  - d Leah & Rachel: birth of the tribal fathers 29:31-30:24**  
(turning point: *'Then God remembered Rachel...'* v22)
- c' Jacob outwits Laban 30:25-43
- b' Departure from Haran, peace pact with Laban 31:1-58
- a' Encounter with Angels at Mahanaim & Peniel 32:1-32

## C' Threat from within: covenant family (33:1-17)

- Dysfunctional family & the entail of grace
- Jacob reconciled with Esau & returns to the land

## B' Threats from without: to land & seed (33:18-34:31)

- Dinah in foreign palace; pact with foreigners
- God preserves despite conflict with pagans

## A' Jacob's death: A nation & people formed (35:1-29)

- Oracle fulfilled; struggle in childbirth; Jacob dies
- Transition to Joseph cycle and the continuing story of Israel's sons