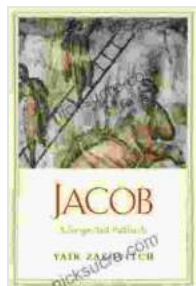


Jacob: The Unexpected Patriarch



Jacob: Unexpected Patriarch (Jewish Lives) by Yair Zakovitch

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1355 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 217 pages



Jacob, the third patriarch of the Israelites, was a complex and fascinating figure. His life was marked by both triumph and tragedy, and his story is full of lessons that are still relevant today.

Jacob was born to Isaac and Rebekah. He was the younger of two twins, with his brother Esau being born first. Jacob was a quiet and gentle child, while Esau was a strong and adventurous hunter. Isaac favored Esau, but Rebekah favored Jacob.

The Birthright

One day, when Esau was tired and hungry after a hunt, Jacob offered him some lentil stew in exchange for his birthright. The birthright was the right to inherit the leadership of the family and to receive a double portion of the inheritance.

Esau was so hungry that he agreed to Jacob's offer. He sold his birthright for a bowl of stew.

The Blessing

Later, when Isaac was old and blind, he called Esau to him and asked him to prepare a meal for him. Isaac intended to give Esau his blessing before he died.

Rebekah overheard Isaac's conversation with Esau. She knew that Jacob was the one who should receive the blessing, so she devised a plan to trick Isaac.

Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes and covered his hands and neck with goat skins to make him look like Esau. Then she sent Jacob to Isaac to receive the blessing.

Isaac was deceived by Jacob's disguise. He gave Jacob the blessing that he had intended for Esau.

Esau's Anger

When Esau returned home and discovered that Jacob had stolen his blessing, he was furious. He vowed to kill Jacob.

Rebekah warned Jacob of Esau's threat. She told him to flee to her brother Laban in Haran until Esau's anger subsided.

Jacob's Journey

Jacob set out on a journey to Haran. Along the way, he stopped at a place called Bethel. There, he had a dream in which he saw a ladder reaching

from earth to heaven. Angels were ascending and descending the ladder.

God appeared to Jacob in the dream and promised to give him the land that he was lying on. God also promised to be with Jacob and to protect him wherever he went.

Jacob's Family

Jacob arrived in Haran and went to work for his uncle Laban. Laban had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Jacob fell in love with Rachel and asked Laban for her hand in marriage.

Laban agreed to give Rachel to Jacob if he worked for him for seven years. Jacob agreed, and he worked hard for Laban.

At the end of seven years, Laban tricked Jacob and gave him Leah instead of Rachel. Jacob was angry, but he agreed to marry Leah if Laban would give him Rachel also.

Jacob worked for Laban for another seven years, and Laban finally gave him Rachel as his wife.

Jacob had 12 sons and one daughter with his two wives and their two maidservants. His sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.

Jacob's Return

After many years in Haran, Jacob decided to return to his homeland. He gathered his family and his possessions, and he set out on the journey back to Canaan.

On the way, Jacob met Esau. Esau had forgiven Jacob for stealing his blessing, and he welcomed Jacob back with open arms.

Jacob and his family settled in Canaan, and he lived there for the rest of his life.

Lessons from Jacob's Life

Jacob's life was full of ups and downs. He experienced both triumph and tragedy, but he never gave up on his dreams.

We can learn several lessons from Jacob's life.

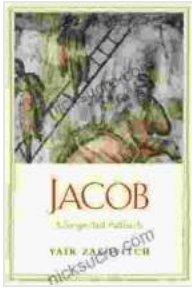
- **Don't give up on your dreams.** No matter what obstacles you face, never give up on your dreams.
- **Be prepared to work hard.** Success doesn't come without hard work. Be prepared to put in the effort to achieve your goals.
- **Don't be afraid to take risks.** Sometimes, you have to take risks to achieve your goals. Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone.
- **Trust in God.** God is always with you, and he will help you through any difficulty.

Jacob's life is a story of hope and redemption. It is a story that shows us that no matter what our past mistakes, we can always start over and find our way back to God.

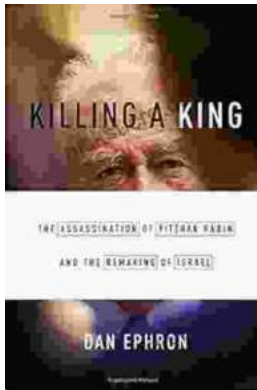
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