

Pastor Ron Case
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“Time of Loss”

Jacob (Part 18)

“And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’”

(Job 1:21)

Litany of Loss

Genesis 35:8 – “And Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth.”

Genesis 35:16-21 – (16) “Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. (17) And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, ‘Do not fear, for you have another son.’ (18) And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. (19) So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), (20) and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel’s tomb, which is there to this day. (21) Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.”

Genesis 35:22 – “While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine. And Israel heard of it...”

Genesis 35:27-29 – (27) “And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned. (28) Now the days of Isaac were 180 years. (29) And Isaac breathed his last, and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.”

The Longer One Lives, the More One Experiences Loss

The Condition of Creation – Loss & Pain

Romans 8:20-22 – (20) “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.”

The Christian Calculus – Loss is Gain

Philippians 3:8 – “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”

Matthew 10:39 – “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Matthew 16:25 – “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

The God Who Restores

Job 42:10 – “And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

Resisting a Disillusioned Existence

2 Samuel 12:20-23 – (20) Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. (21) Then his servants said to him, ‘What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.’ (22) He said, ‘While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? (23) But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.’”

Genesis 42:38 – “But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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