

**Title:** Jacob's Wealth : an examination into the nature and role of material possessions in the Jacob-cycle (Gen 25:19-35:29)

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**Abstract:**

Various biblical studies on wealth and poverty have been published over the last thirty years. Although some of these studies touch on the wealth of the patriarchs in Gen 12-50, they predominantly focus on other part of Scripture. Conversely, scholars who have studied the patriarchal narratives comment on aspects of patriarchal wealth, but never offer an in-depth analysis on this topic. It is the aim of this study to offer such an integrated analysis, focusing on Jacob's wealth as evident in the Jacob-cycle (Gen 25:19-35:29). Although material possessions and associated attitudes and actions are not the main concern of the Jacob-cycle, they are an important and pervasive feature of the narrative. Material possessions often stand at the heart of various conflicts, which arise when desire for material advancement gains ascendancy over relationship concerns. Material possession associated attitudes and actions will be studied in their appropriate contexts. As a result, I will comment on the relationship between Jacob's wealth and larger theological concerns like 'blessing' and the 'patriarchal promises' in the book of Genesis. With this study, I aim to make a contribution towards a better understanding of the Jacob-cycle as whole. I also hope that it will be a useful contribution to larger-scale endeavours, like the construction of a biblical theology of material possessions.