

ISAAC, JACOB & ESAU

Genesis 26 - 36

NOW, FAMINE.

- 26:1-6 God says, in essence, “Stay here and I will multiply your family.” But Isaac, for some
- 26:7-8 reason, repeated his father’s cowardice, pretending his wife was his sister.
(What family vices do we risk repeating?)

NOW, FAMINE.

God promised Abraham a one-sided, God-kept covenant.

Abraham believed him, yet acted in cowardice.

God answered prayer providing Isaac a bride in Rebekah (Genesis 24)

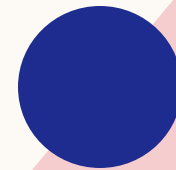
God answered prayer opening Rebekah's barren womb (Genesis 25)

God reminded Isaac of his family legacy in God's covenant.

Isaac obeyed God literally. He stayed in Gerar. But did he trust God?

God never *technically* said "through your wife, Rebekah" **but**

Isaac could have trusted God with his family's safety.



NOW, FAMINE.

26:8-11 Shame: this Philistine “father king” was more afraid of guilt, and right and wrong, than Isaac had been. “... you would have brought guilt on us”

26:12-17 Isaac’s people were not enslaved by the locals, though they saw the threat. It was not time yet.
“Go away from us. You are too powerful for us.” - Abimelech

God is not recorded opining on what Isaac had done.

WELL, WELL

Isaac sought to restore his father's water sources.

Philistines had stopped them up.

Scripture does not say what God thought about this.

26:15, 18

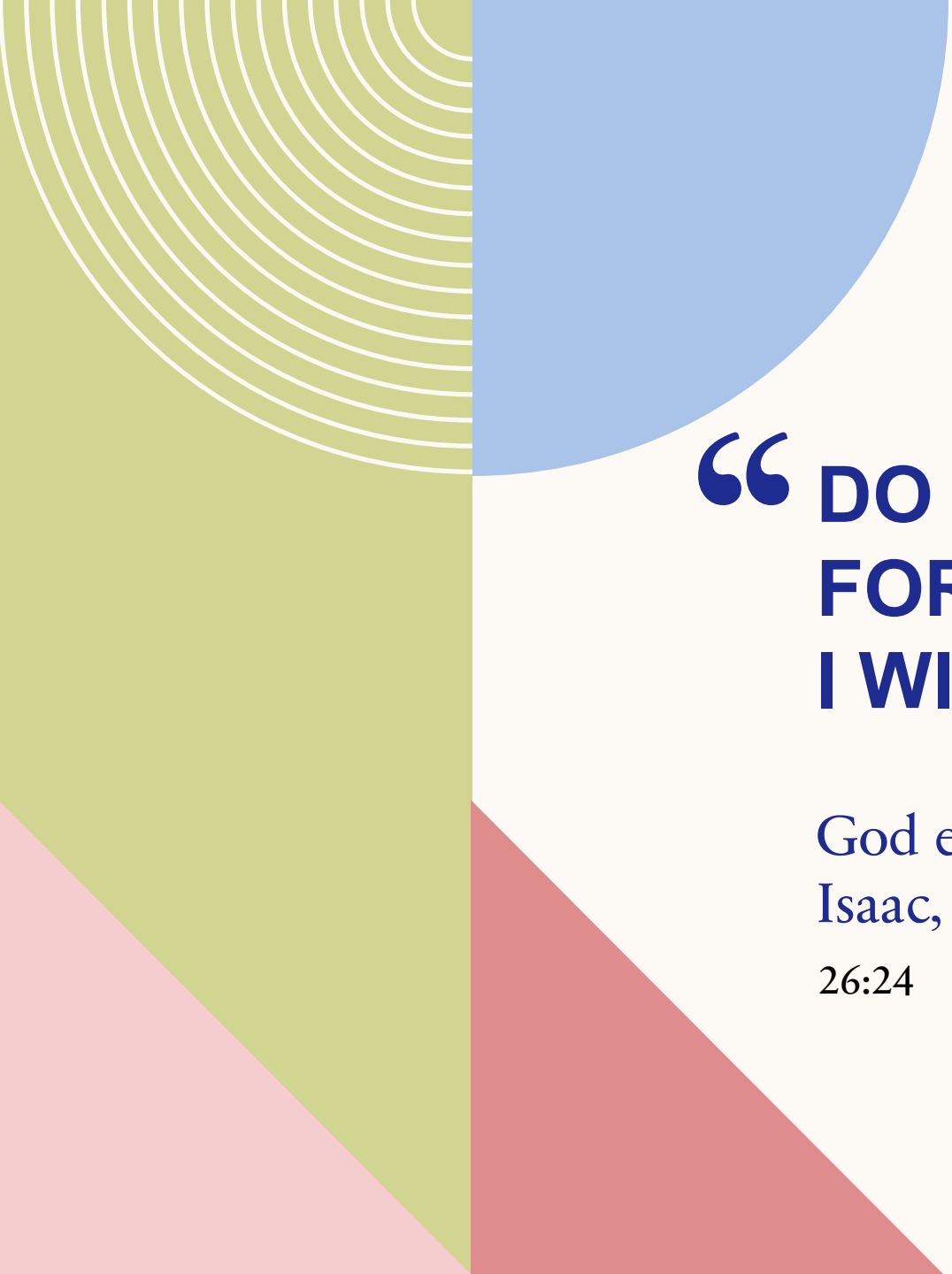
When the locals did not quarrel with his third dig site, Isaac took it as a provision from the Lord, calling it “broad places.”

Scripture does not say what God thought about this.

26:22

Next, at Beersheba, God does speak, reiterating his blessing on Isaac.

26:23-25



**“ DO NOT FEAR,
FOR I AM WITH YOU.
I WILL BLESS YOU ”**

God explains his plan to
Isaac, at Beersheba

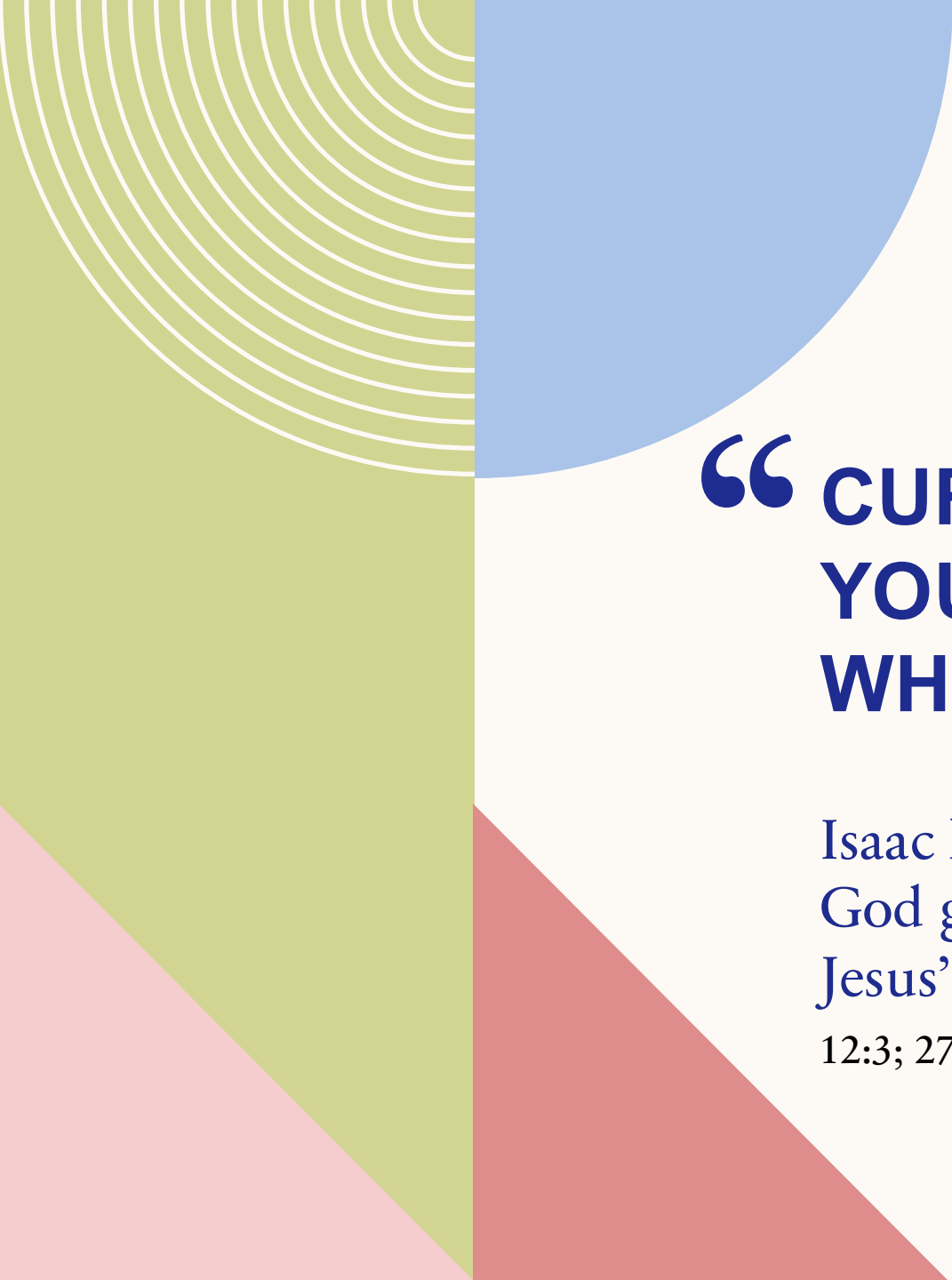
26:24



TRICKY

Rebekah tells Jacob to lie.
He lies, even misappropriating God's name.
He gets "the blessing" from Isaac.
Rebekah tells Jacob one thing,
and tells Isaac another.
God is silent about it all.

27:5-17



**“CURSED BE THOSE WHO CURSE
YOU, AND BLESSED BE THOSE
WHO BLESS YOU.”**

Isaac hands down the blessing
God gave Abram: similar to
Jesus' words about us.

12:3; 27:29b; *see* Luke 10:16; Gal. 3:8

KISSING CANAAN GOODBYE

- Rebekah, still lying, pretends to complain about the local dating scene. 27:46
- Isaac blesses Jacob and sends him safely away to the cousins. 28:1-5
- Rebekah meant her favorite son to leave a few days while Esau cooled off. 27:43-45
- Instead, she didn't apparently see her son again for 14 years.
- Jacob obeys and goes away to other [college & career Bible study groups].
- Esau marries more local girls (to spite his parents?) 28:6-9

No comment from God about his opinion of the behavior or blessings.



**“ FOR I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU
UNTIL I HAVE DONE WHAT I HAVE
PROMISED YOU. ”**

God reiterates his rationale to
Jacob, in the ladder dream

28:15; *see* 28:10-21

KISSING LABAN HELLO

- Jacob, probably achy from his rock pillow, found shepherds and a well. 29:1-8
- Jacob **cannot serve his future bride until the stone is rolled away.** 29:9-10
- Jacob helps with chores, kisses a girl, gets emotional. 29:11-12
- Jacob stays longer than his mom said to. 29:13-14
- Uncle Laban sees some cheap labor, offers to strike a deal. 29:15-18
- Jacob wants Rachel. Laban responds in the hypothetical.  29:19
- 7 years. Laban gives Jacob the wrong wife. Jacob fails wifey QA procedures. 29:20-25
- 7 more years for Jacob to get the wife he wanted. 29:26-30

No comment from God about his opinion of the lies, romances, contracts, or plans.



**“NOW THE LORD SAW THAT
LEAH WAS UNLOVED, AND HE
OPENED HER WOMB.”**

Narrative of Genesis 29:31;
the only revelation of
God's mind concerning that
chapter's events

TWELVE BOYS

Leah bore Reuben

Leah bore Simeon

Leah bore Levi

Leah bore Judah, *then stopped bearing.*

Bilhah bore Dan

Bilhah bore Naphtali

Zilpah bore Gad

Zilpah bore Asher

Leah bore Issachar, *when God gave heed to her.*

Leah bore Zebulun

Rachel bore Joseph, *when God gave her remembrance.*

Rachel bore Benjamin

Little is recorded here about God's opinion of the squabbling, polygamy, the use of maids as stand-ins for childbearing, or the names the women chose.

Jacob is only recorded being angry, and otherwise has no recorded comment about the tensions this arrangement caused in his house.

THAT'S A SHEEP OF A DIFFERENT COLOR!

- Jacob now having Rachel, wants to go home.
- Laban likes the work he's gotten from Jacob.
- Jacob sets the terms this time.
- Jacob's elaborate breeding method seems to work.
- Jacob's sheep thrive; Laban's do not thrive.
- Laban feels cheated.
- Jacob points out Laban's constantly changing terms.
- *Jacob reveals that God had shown him what to do.*



**“ BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT
SPEAK TO JACOB
EITHER GOOD OR BAD. ”**

God, to Laban as he pursued
Jacob's fleeing family

31:24

SHOUTING LABAN GOODBYE

- Jacob sees the suspicion of his shady in-laws, reasons with his wives. 31:17-21
- They gather their things and sneak away
- Rachel has sticky fingers. Jacob does not know this. 31:32
- Laban chases, God intervenes. Laban just accuses. 31:22-30
- Rachel lies about the idols, gets away with it by feigning cramps. 31:33-35
- Jacob becomes angry and confronts his FiL about unjust wages, treatment. 31:36-42
- Laban does not confess, but he and Jacob covenant that God will judge between them. 31:43-55

No comment from God about his opinion of the lies, fights, wealth, or covenant.

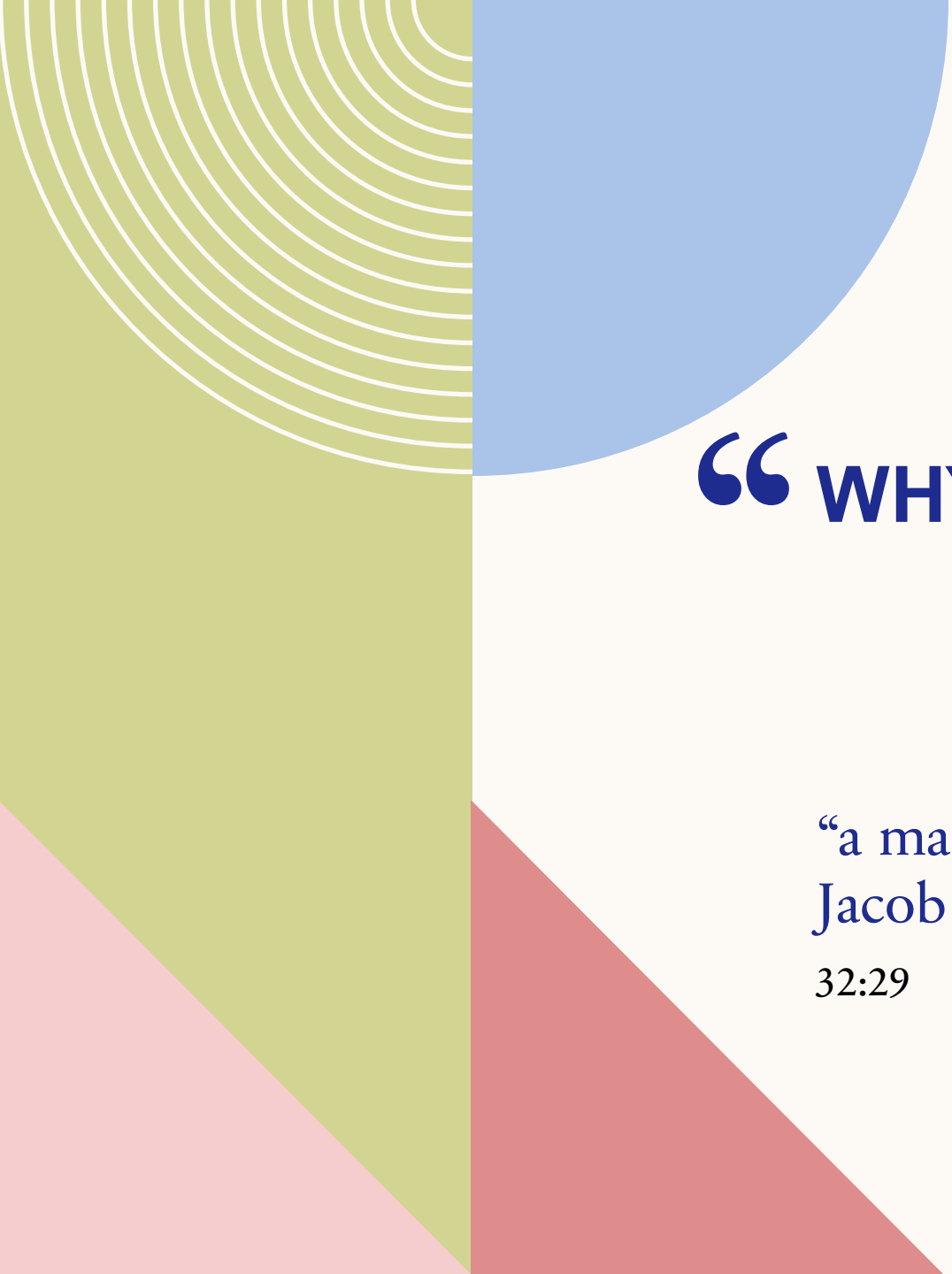
KISSING ESAU HELLO

- The feeling of justification does not last long
- Jacob is terrified of the brother he deceived and cheated
- Jacob prays that God will preserve his life, reminds God of his promises
- He puts before him all his wealth from Laban as a gift to Esau, preceding him

No comment about God's view here. God (?) wrestles with, renames, and blesses Jacob

- Jacob and Esau have a tender reunion. No you! No you!
- Jacob settles again in the land of Canaan

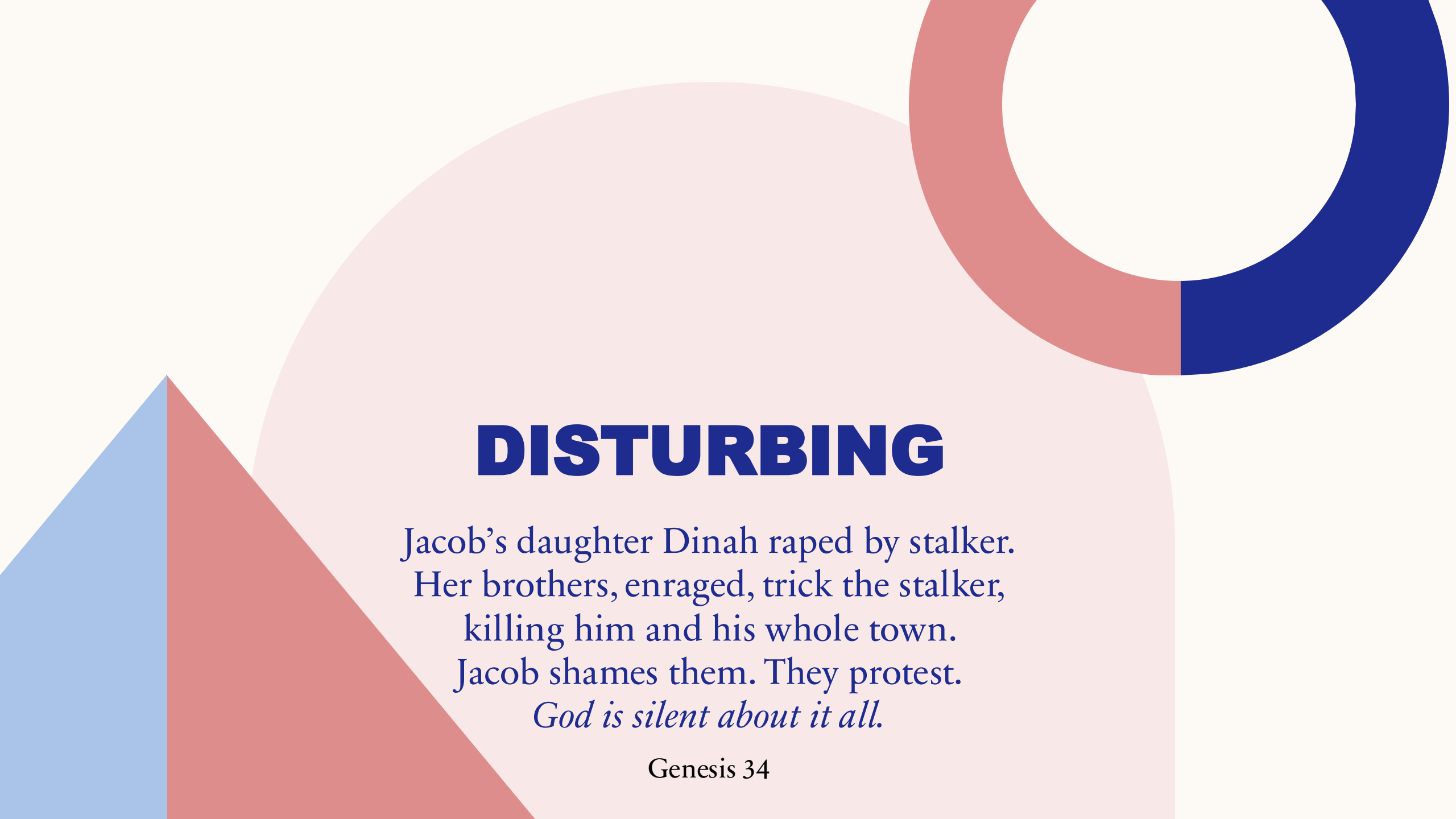
No comment about God's feelings about these exchanges or events.



**“ WHY IS IT
YOU ASK
MY NAME? ”**

“a man” who wrestled with
Jacob until dawn

32:29



DISTURBING

Jacob's daughter Dinah raped by stalker.
Her brothers, enraged, trick the stalker,
killing him and his whole town.
Jacob shames them. They protest.
God is silent about it all.

Genesis 34

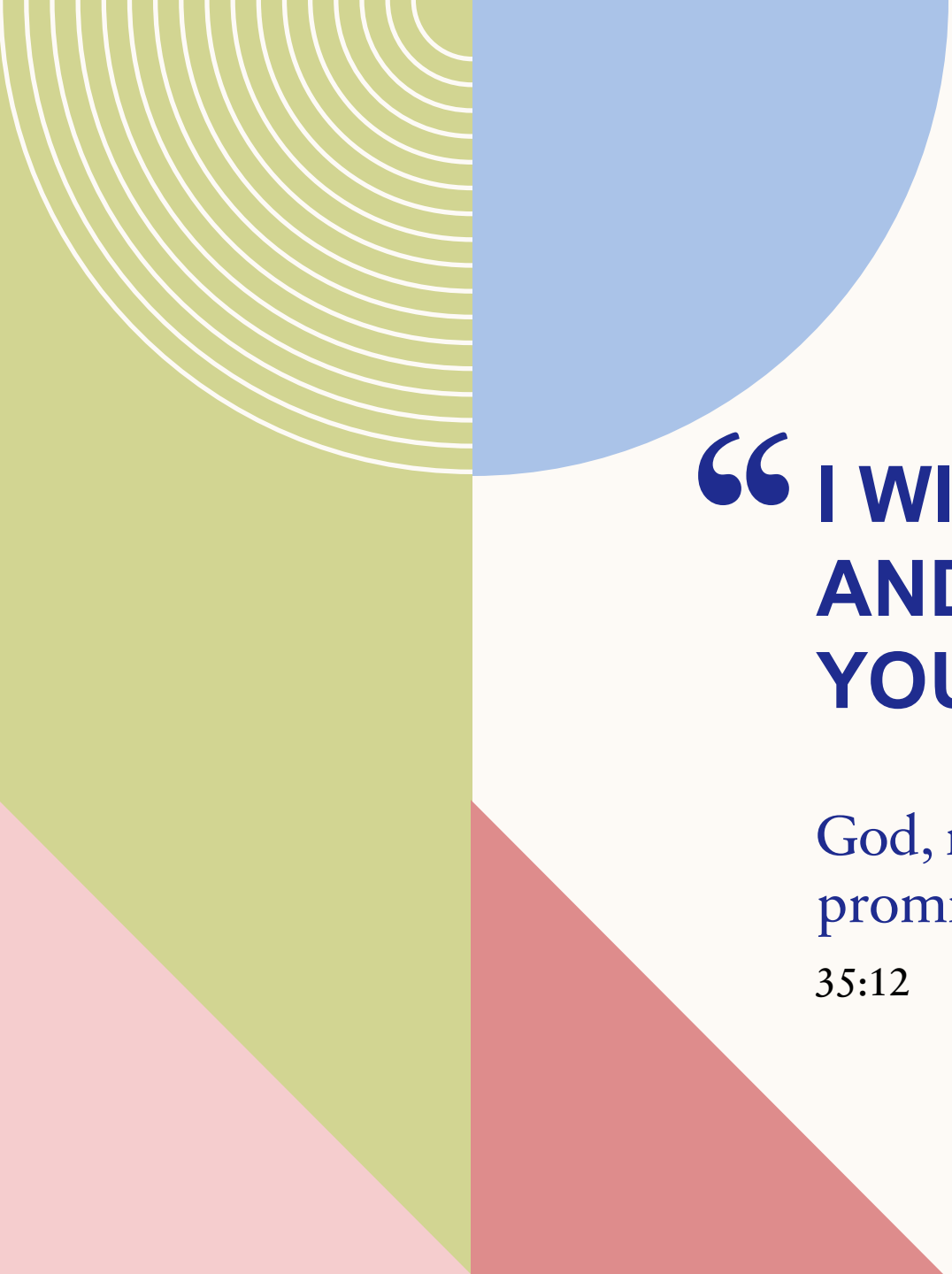
**“GO...LIVE...AND MAKE AN ALTAR
TO GOD [WHERE HE] APPEARED
TO YOU WHEN YOU FLED”**

God, sending Jacob back
where God had met him

35:1

REVERSAL OF FLIGHT

- God tells Jacob to go back and build an altar where the ladder dream happened
 - Jacob tells his household to get rid of all idols and purify themselves
 - All the surrounding people were terrified of accosting their journey
 - Jacob builds an altar at Bethel
 - God codifies rename to Israel, tells him to multiply, and reiterates his promise
- There is no mention of this being because of anything Jacob had done or not done.*
- Rachel dies bearing the last of the 12 tribal patriarchs
 - Esau vacated Canaan for Jacob, and went to the hills and became Edom



**“ I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU,
AND I WILL GIVE THE LAND TO
YOUR DESCENDANTS ”**

God, reiterating to Jacob the
promise made to Abram, Isaac

35:12