

THE STUDY OF

# GENESIS

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED  
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."

# Repentance That Restores

Genesis 33:1-20



# THE REDEMPTION STORY: FROM GENESIS TO JESUS

- The Bible is one beautiful story of Jesus and redemption (Ephesians 1:7-10)
- Scripture presents a purposeful narrative revealing God's redemptive plan (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

# Big Picture

- Redeemer/Seed Hunt Gen. 3:15;  
12:1-3
- Past promises point to future faithfulness, different times - same Lord
- Continuity — From Abraham to Christ (Heb 11:13–16; Gal 3:29)



# **Recap: Bethel to Bondage and Back Again**

1. “Heel-grabber” (striver/schemer) → shaped by Gods faithfulness and His promises
2. Met the Lord at Bethel: “Surely God is in this place” (Gen 28)
3. 20 years under Laban: labor, manipulation, wage changes

4. **Laban behind him** – a man he out-schemed for 20 years.

5. **Esau ahead of him** – a brother he betrayed and then outran.

And right in the middle,

God steps in and says:

**“We’re going to deal with you now.”**





## v.1-3 — Seven Bows: Humility Before Grace

1. Family divided—old patterns remain
2. Joseph (יֹסֵפִי yôṣēp̄ = “may he add”) favored
3. Jacob steps ahead of family
4. Bows seven times = total submission

## v.1-3 — Seven Bows: Humility Before Grace

5. Echo of Isaac's blessing (Gen 27:29;  
33:3)

6. Better to limp by faith and follow the  
Lord (Prov 3:5–6)



## v.4-7 — Grace Runs Faster Than Fear

1. Esau runs, embraces, kisses, weeps
2. No revenge, no bargaining
3. God answers Jacob's prayer (Gen 32:11)

## v.4-7 — Grace Runs Faster Than Fear

4. Fear displaced by grace (Ps 27:3)
5. God quietly subdues hostility (Prov 21:1)
6. Foreshadows the Prodigal Father (Luke 15:20)



## v.8-11 — Repentance Restores

1. Children acknowledged as God's gift  
(Gen 33:5; Ps 127:3; Ps 113:9; Ps 107:41)
2. Both brothers confess contentment  
"I have enough" (Gen 33:9, 11; 1 Tim 6:6)

3. Jacob returns the blessing he stole (Gen 33:11)
4. Gift acceptance = reconciliation (Near Eastern custom; cf. Gen 23:11)
5. “Seeing your face... like seeing God” (Gen 33:10; cf. 32:30)
6. Repentance seeks restoration (Luke 19:8–9; Matt 5:23–24)



## v.15-20 - Forgiven but...

1. Esau invites closeness
2. Jacob avoids Seir (שֵׂעִיר = “rugged / hairy land”)
3. Shechem (שָׁכֶם = “shoulder / burden”) (Gen 33:18)



4. Later: Joseph's bones buried there (Josh 24:32)
5. Altar built: El-Elohe-Israel ("God, the God of Israel") (Gen 33:20)
6. God called Jacob to Bethel ("house of God")
7. Hard to live as Jacob and Israel at once





# Takeaways -

## 1. Identity before action

God meets Jacob before Jacob moves forward. New identity produces courage and mercy.

see 2 Corinthians 5:17

## 2. Grace, not comparison

The gospel ends moral score-keeping and frees us to bless others—even enemies.

see Romans 5:8

### 3. Forgiveness with wisdom

Reconciliation is real, but trust takes time.

Grace forgives; wisdom sets boundaries.

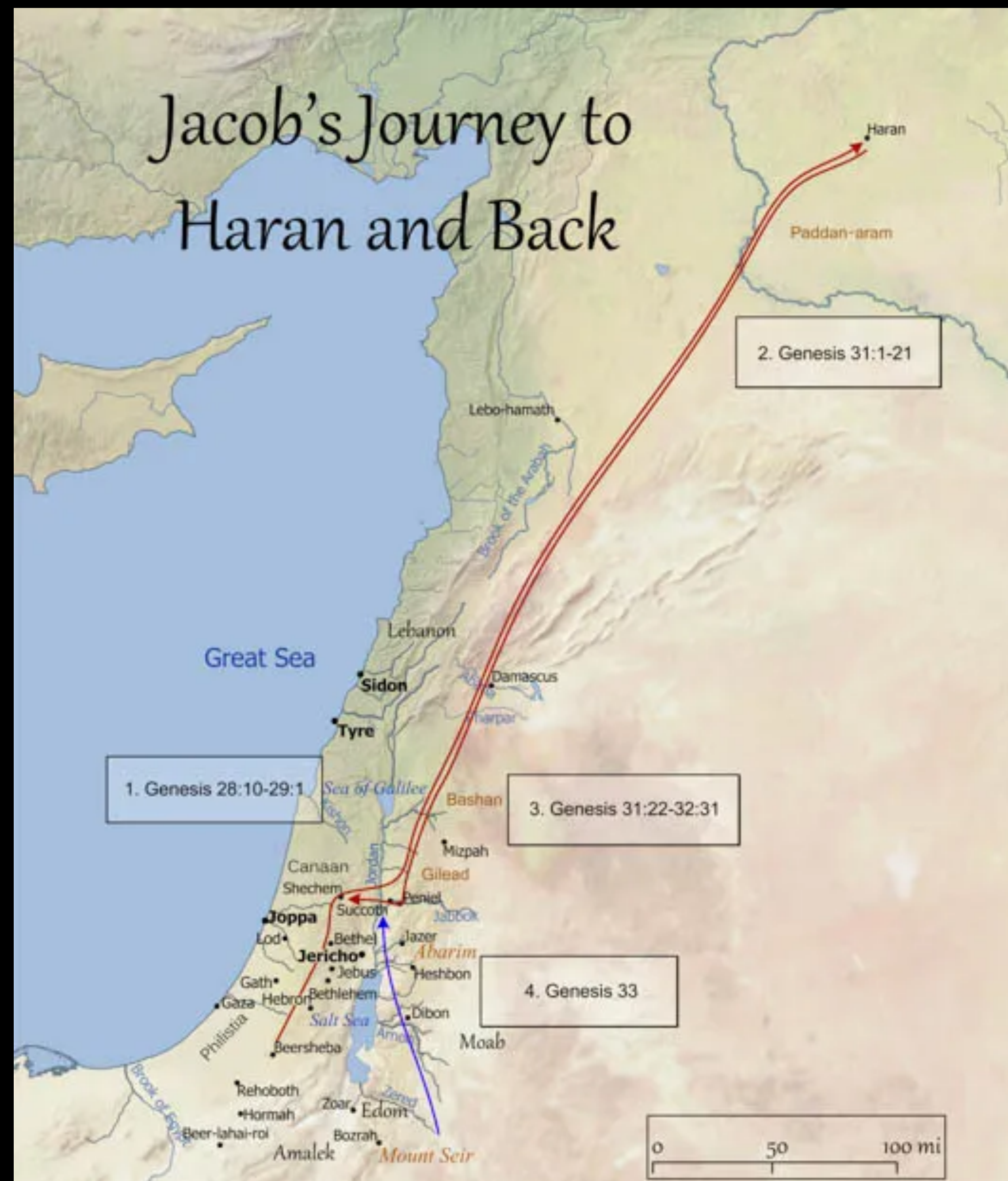
see Romans 12:18



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# Jacob's Journey to Haran and Back



# HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

**Heat** = pressure, trials, difficulty (Ps.  
88; James 1:1-15)

**Thorns** = our sin, flesh response (Eph.  
4-6; Heb. 4:14-5:10)

# HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

**Cross** = God's gospel transformative power, changes our focus from self to Jesus, (Rom 1;16; 2 Peter 1:1-11)

**Fruit** = the new right, Holy Spirit, Grace- empowered response to life's struggles. (Ps. 1; Gal 5:22)