

THE STUDY OF

GENESIS

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

Grace in the Grapple

Genesis 32:1-32

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.

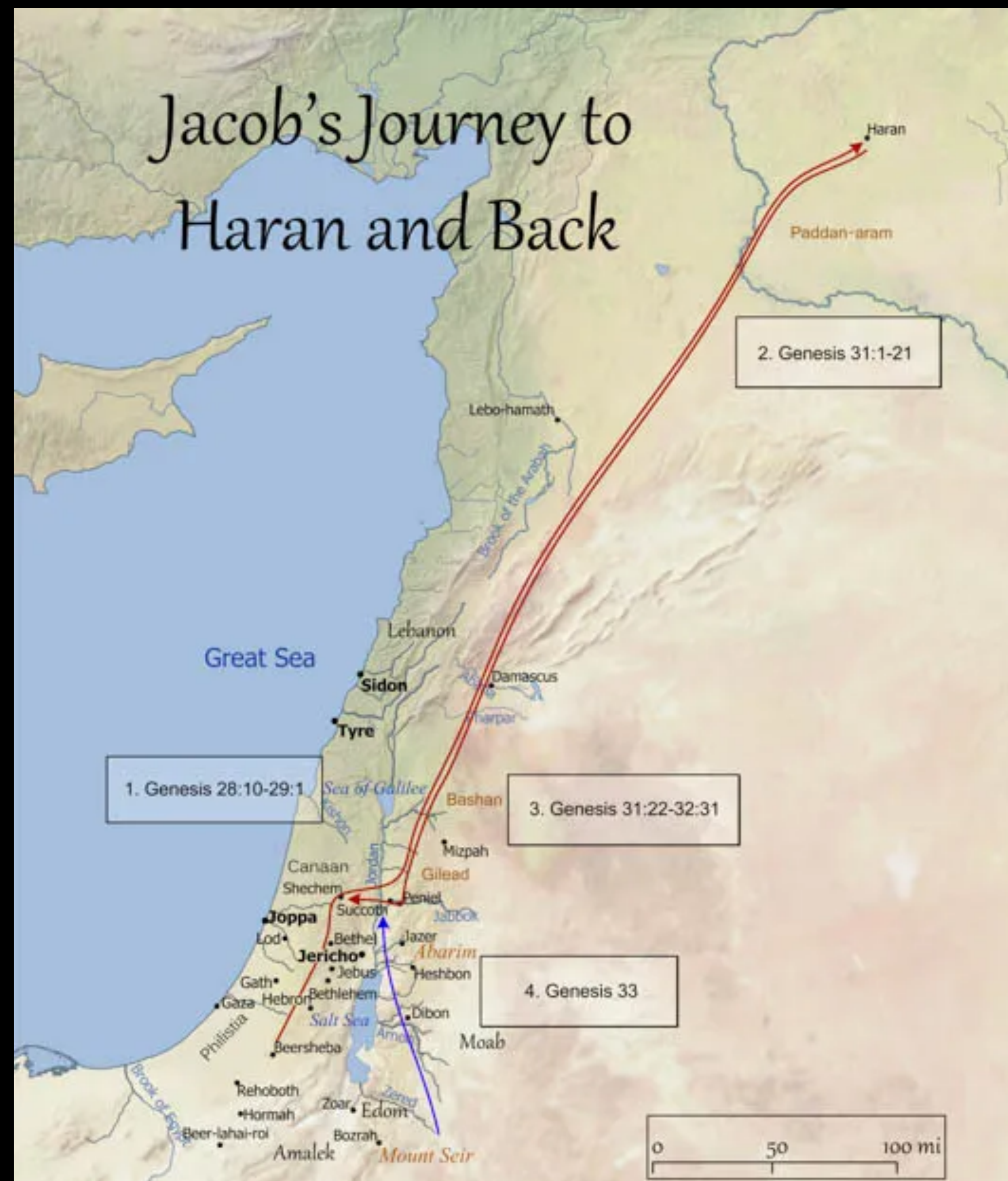
5. **Esau ahead of him** – a brother he betrayed and then outran.

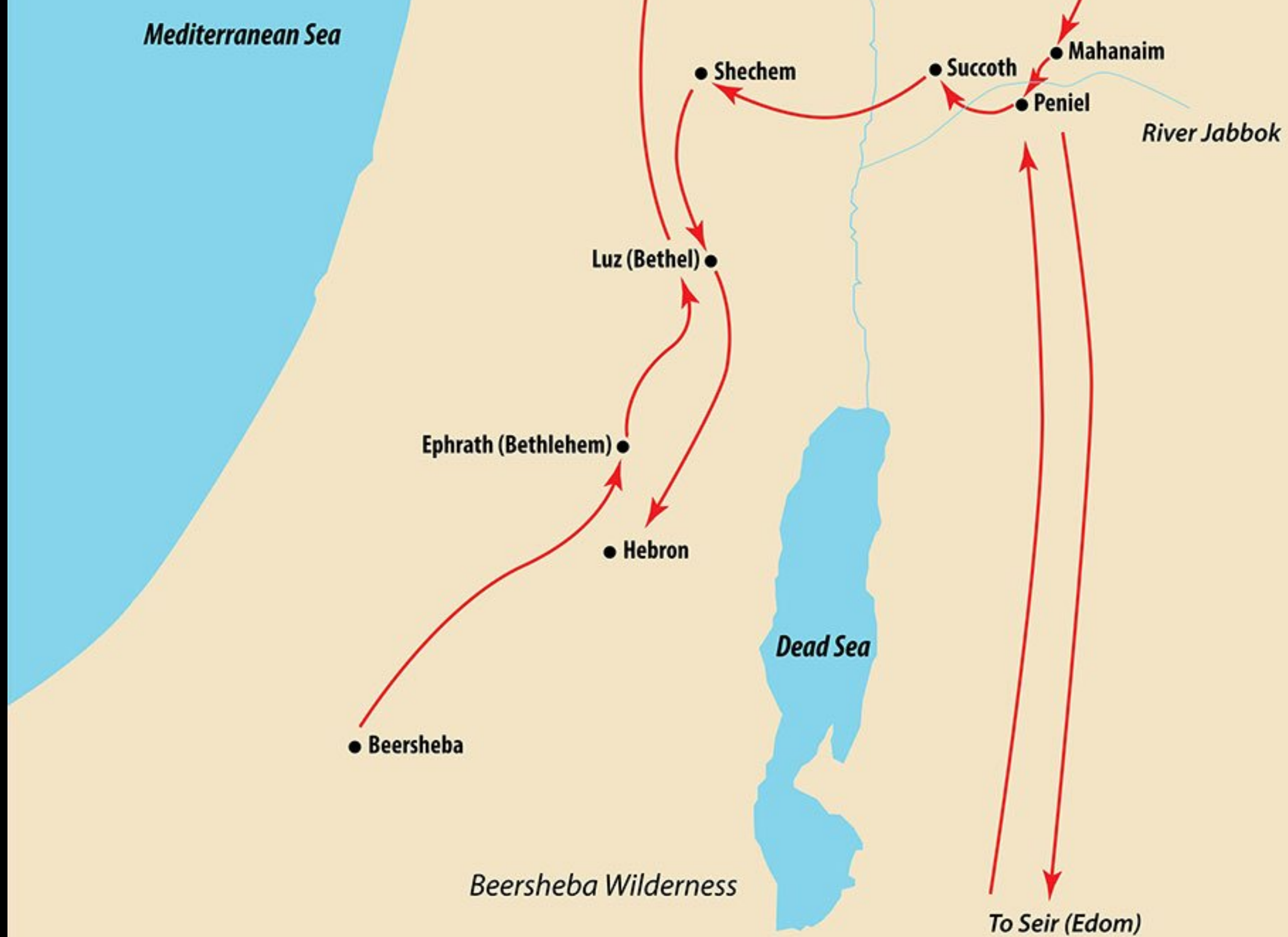
And right in the middle,

God steps in and says:

“We’re going to deal with you now.”

Jacob's Journey to Haran and Back





v.1-8 — God is already at work

Mahanaim — God's double camp (1-2)

**Esau's approach — 400-man question mark
(3-6)**

Jacob's fear and fractured planning (7-8)

v.1-8 — God is already at work

When fear rises, remember you are never one camp—God is already there before you arrive.

2 Kings 6:15–17; Psalm 34:7; Hebrews

1:14; **Romans 8:31** — If God is for us, who can be against us?

v.9-21 — Jacob's prayer (9–12)

1. Remembers covenant faithfulness –

“God of Abraham, God of Isaac.”

2. Anchors in God's command – “You said, Return...”

3. Confesses unworthiness – “I am not worthy...”

4. Confesses his fear – “Deliver me... for I fear him.”

5. Pleads the promise – “For You said...”

Relapse into Reliance (13–21)

1. 550 animals as lavish restitution and flattery.
2. “Appease” / atonement language.
3. Playing for time; slowing Esau down.
4. Jacob behind everyone → still trusting his plan more than God’s.

v.9-21 — Faith over Fear

Faith doesn't deny fear—faith brings fear into prayer and overpowers it in God's promises and presence.

Psalm 56:3 — When I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Isaiah 41:10 — Fear not, for I am with you.
(Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Peter 5:7)

v.22-32 - Wrestling the Jacob Out of Jacob

1. Alone at the Jabbok (22–23)

a. Family and possessions sent ahead

b. Jacob alone—no more distractions

c. Jabbok = “wrestle/struggle” →
symbolic crossroads

v.22-32 - Wrestling the Jacob Out of Jacob

2. God's surprising approach (24–25)

- a. “A Man” wrestles him—God initiates
- b. All-night struggle: Jacob refusing to yield
- c. Hip touched → strength broken; no more running or fighting

v.22-32 - Wrestling the Jacob Out of Jacob

3. From wrestler to clinger (26)

- a. “I will not let You go unless You bless me.”
- b. Not bravado; desperate dependence.
- c. Victory by surrender.

v.22-32 - Wrestling the Jacob Out of Jacob

4. The new name, the new walk (27–29)

- a. “What is your name?” → confession:
“Jacob.”
- b. New name: Israel – God rules/prevails
- c. Wins by losing to God

v.22-32 - Wrestling the Jacob Out of Jacob

5. Peniel and the holy limp (30–32)

- a. Peniel – פְּנוֹאֵל – “Face of God”
- b. Perpetual reminder: broken to be blessed.
- c. Israelite practice of avoiding the sinew
→ liturgical memory.

Hosea 12:3–5 — Jacob wept and sought the blessing

Psalms 51:17 — A broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 — When I am weak, then I am strong.

James 4:6–10 — God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

A New Name

Isaiah 43:1 — I have called you by name;
you are Mine.

2 Corinthians 5:17 — new creation, new
identity

Revelation 2:17 — new name given by
God

Takeaway - Stop and Seek

We want to keep moving; God wants us to stop, wrestle, remember, and be renamed. God doesn't wrestle you to wreck you; He wrestles you to rename you.

1. Where am I running instead of trusting?
2. Where am I trying to control outcomes rather than cling to Christ?
3. Where has fear ruled instead of prayer?
4. Where did God touch my hip this year — exposing idols or weakness?
5. What “Jacob” in me must God conquer so I may live as Israel?

E.O.T.Y.A. (Actions)

1. Confess one sin pattern honestly to God and one trusted believer.

- Psalm 32:3–5 • 1 John 1:9

E.O.T.Y.A. (Actions)

2. Choose one promise for the new year and pray it regularly.

• Isaiah 41:10 • Romans 8:1-28 • Matthew 28:19-20 • Philippians 1:6

3. Re-Center Your Life on Jesus Himself

Not resolutions. Not productivity. Not self-improvement.

Begin the year with rhythms of:

Scripture; Sabbath; Slow down/gathered
worship/community/Life groups/Fast-
Pray-Worship; abiding in Christ

• John 15:4–5 • Colossians 3:1–4

- Before you step into a new calendar, step into God's presence.
- Let Him conquer what has been conquering you.
- Start the new year not stronger — but more surrendered.

Resources/ Bibliography:

1. Boice, James Montgomery.
Genesis: An Expositional Commentary. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982–1987.
2. Calvin, John.
Commentary on Genesis. Various editions.
3. Guzik, David.
“Commentary on Genesis 32.” In Enduring Word Bible Commentary.
<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-32/>
4. Sailhamer, John H.
The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
5. Sailhamer, John H.
NIV Bible Study Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
6. Spurgeon, Charles Haddon.
The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit (Vols. 7–63) and The New Park Street Pulpit (Vols. 1–6).
Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1990.
7. Wiersbe, Warren W.
Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993.

1. Genesis 28 — Bethel:

Jacob runs in fear → God meets him in
grace

Promise given: “I am with you... I will
bring you back”

2. Genesis 29 — Haran:

The deceiver is deceived

God humbles Jacob through Laban's
manipulation

3. Genesis 30 — Prosperity:

God blesses despite rivalry, schemes,
and striving

Jacob grows wealthy — but not free

4. Genesis 31 — Departure:

Favor turns to hostility

God breaks the grip and calls Jacob home

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)

Look around and be distressed

Look within and be depressed

Look at Jesus and be at rest.

-- Corrie Ten Boom