

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 God’s 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.

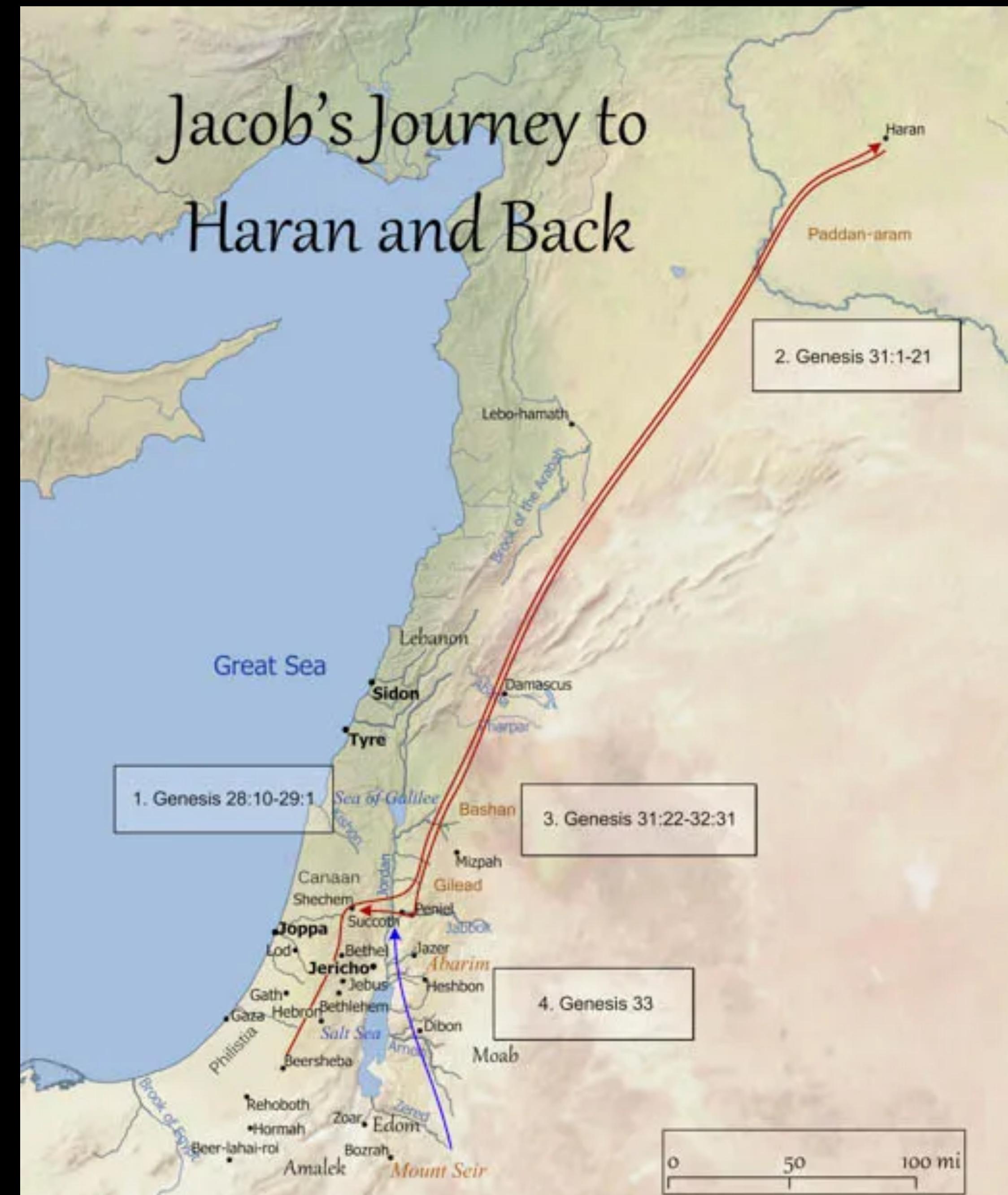
5. **Esau** ahead of him – a brother he betrayed and then outran.

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 – פָנָאֵל – “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

Psalm 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.

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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