

Passage: Genesis 32-33

Title: A Broken Man

Summary: In Genesis 32, Jacob faces a moment of deep fear and crisis as he prepares to meet his brother Esau, whom he had wronged years earlier. Overwhelmed by anxiety, Jacob prays humbly, acknowledging his unworthiness and pleading for God's deliverance. That night, alone and desperate, Jacob wrestles with a mysterious man—God Himself in human form. In this struggle, Jacob is physically broken, his hip put out of joint, yet he clings in faith, refusing to let go without a blessing. God renames him Israel (which means "Governed by God"), marking the transformation of Jacob from a self-reliant schemer to a man dependent on God's grace.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

Recap / 20yrs – 4 woman – 12 kids / Problem – Unfinished Business

It is 20 years later, 2 wives, 2 concubines, 11 sons and 1 daughter later; and God stirs Jacob's heart, it is time to return to the land that was promised to you, your father Isaac, and his father Abraham. But there is a problem, and that is the unfinished business between him and his brother Esau, the one whom he had ripped off, stolen his blessing from Isaac. The last word he had heard about Esau was that when dad dies, then Jacob dies.

Matt 5

In Matthew 5 Jesus tells us to leave our gift at the altar, and be reconciled to the one we have offended, then come back to the altar to continue with our worship and adoration of the Lord.

(Matthew 5:23 NKJV) "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

(Matthew 5:24 NKJV) "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Must be right with Brother / Vertical - Horizontal

The point for us is that we cannot be right with the Lord, if we are not right with our brother. Our relationship with the Lord is on two planes, vertical, our relationship with the Father, and horizontal, our relationship with man:

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment.

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Outline: Genesis 32-33

- Jacob's Departure and Angelic Encounter (32:1–2)
- Jacob Sends Messengers to Esau (32:3–5)
- Jacob's Fear and Distress (32:6–8)
- Jacob's Prayer for Deliverance (32:9–12)
- Jacob Prepares a Gift for Esau (32:13–20)
- Jacob Sends His Family Across the Jabbok (32:21–23)
- Jacob Wrestles with God (32:24–32)

- Jacob Sees Esau Approaching (33:1–3)
- Esau and Jacob Reconcile (33:4–7)
- Jacob Insists on Giving His Gift (33:8–11)
- Esau Offers to Accompany Jacob (33:12–16)
- Jacob Journeys to Succoth and Shechem (33:17–20)

I pray the Lord shows each of us, that "one" thing that needs to be seen, that needs to be spoken to by the Lord, to comfort, or confront, so as to conform us into His image.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Jacob's Departure and Angelic Encounter (32:1–2)

(Genesis 32:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

(Genesis 32:2 NKJV) When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

2 Camps

מחנה (machaneh) — Camp

- Appears in Genesis 32:2–3 (“This is God’s camp” / “So he called that place Mahanaim”).
- Mahanaim means “two camps” — symbolic of the division of Jacob’s people (also a reminder of the angelic camp).
- Significance: Emphasizes Jacob’s vulnerability and God’s presence in his journey.
- Jacob will see his camp and Esau’s camp, Jacob will divide into two camps himself, Jacob will divide his camps from himself, but here before it all begins God gives him the ultimate two camps (himself and the Lord surrounding him).

The Host / God Comforts / Heb 1

Jacob has a host of his family with him, but when he lifted his eyes he sees another host about him, a host of angels. God always wants us to see His hand in every situation in our life, especially in those times of fear and uncertainty. Do you realize that? God’s angel or angels are with us on all of our journeys:

(Hebrews 1:13 NKJV) But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?
(Hebrews 1:14 NKJV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Angels Sent / Father Filter / Don’t Realize Protection

Angels are sent to us, stand with us, and go before us. Nothing can happen to us unless it first goes through the filter of the Father. I believe when we get to heaven, meet our angels, we will blown away by how many times they keep us out of harms way, and we did not even realize it.

Principalities

We wrestle not against the flesh, but principalities and powers:

(Ephesians 6:12 NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Drama Team / See the Spiritual Realm

I remember several years ago being part of this drama team that did the most powerful drama of the Gospel. One Pastor said if he only had 9 minutes to present the gospel to someone, this would be it. Every time we performed it, someone gave their life to the Lord, it was so powerful. I remember the first time we were to do it, it was a Sunday morning and in those two services over 1,000 people would see it, some for the need of salvation, others to be reminded of the price and victory of their Lord and Savior. Well that morning, after a couple months of rehearsal, I was up, prayed, dressed, and said to myself nothing can stop this now, and then it came across my mind, except your car not starting, which had never happened before. You guessed it, I go to start the car, and it won’t start, then God gave me a vision of a sword stuck thorough the engine. I prayed to the Father, and I believe He or a ministering angel pulled the sword out. I made it to church, and the car died there, I ended up having to buy another car. Like Jacob, God wants to show us the spiritual realm, to let us know what we are up against, but also who is with us, and going before us.

Parents / Father Filter / Suffocating / Usurping Angels / Dogs-heights-outside

I say this to parents, God has angels around your children, and nothing can happen to them unless it goes through the Father filter and He allows it. I see many parents suffocating their kids, so fearful something is going to happen to them that they don’t let the kid live. What they are doing is they are usurping the authority of the angels God has placed over that child. Some parents say ohh he/she doesn’t like dogs, no the parent doesn’t like dogs; she/he doesn’t like heights, no the parent doesn’t, he/she doesn’t like to play outside, no the parent is afraid to let them out of their sight. Parents use wisdom, but back off, let your kid live, entrust them to God’s ministering agents. Nothing accidental can happen to them unless the Father allows it.

Jacob Sends Messengers to Esau (32:3–5)

(Genesis 32:3 NKJV) Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

(Genesis 32:4 NKJV) And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now.

(Genesis 32:5 NKJV) "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight." "

Esau in Edom

Esau is in Edom, not the Promised Land, for he never had any desire for the things of the Lord. Thus the descendants of Esau are called Edomites because they lived in the area of Edom.

Peace Offering

So here we see Jacob sending a Peace offering, Jacob makes a peace plan.

But we do not see repentance, of what he did to Esau 20 years with his trickery.

Time and distance does not equal repentance nor forgiveness. Even years and distance, need a confession to settle and deal with a past sin and hurt. How about you today, anything the Lord is speaking to you about?

Jacob's Fear and Distress (32:6–8)

(Genesis 32:6 NKJV) Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

(Genesis 32:7 NKJV) So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies.

(Genesis 32:8 NKJV) And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."

400 Men / Plot Thickens / Esau Ahead - Laban Behind / Mizpah

Esau coming with 400 men, the plot thickens. Jacob has Esau before him, and Laban behind him, there is no returning to Laban for that was settled in Genesis 31:51-52. Mizpah, the Lord watch over you when I can't, for I don't trust you. The line was drawn, the word was said do not cross over this line, past this pillar, for if you do there will be trouble. As we saw last chapter Laban's sons would like nothing more than to take care of Jacob, for good:

(Genesis 31:51 NKJV) Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.

(Genesis 31:52 NKJV) "This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

Jacob Plans / Splits Company

So we see Jacob, he starts his planning, I need to set this up here, and that up there; so he splits his company hoping he will still have half of them left when it is all over.

Peace – Panic - Prayer

But we do see Jacob has grown over the years of God working in him; Jacob request peace, reacts with a panic, but he then turns to prayer

Jacob's Prayer for Deliverance (32:9–12)

(Genesis 32:9 NKJV) Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':

(Genesis 32:10 NKJV) "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

Humility

In his fear, Jacob will come to a place of humility, confessing, "Lord, I am not worthy." As we continue this theme of humility, let's remember—humility is not self-deprecation. It's not "woe is me, I'm nothing."

That's not true humility. True humility is recognizing, "I am unworthy, but You are worthy. You are God, and I am not." And when humility takes root, it leads to the question, "Lord, how can I serve You? What brings You glory? And how can I serve others above my own needs?"

Jacob hasn't fully arrived at that place yet. But he's starting to acknowledge at least this: God is worthy; I am unworthy. And God is working on him. Another mark of humility is being teachable—recognizing that you don't know it all and that you need God's instruction. Jacob is being brought to that point: Teach me, Lord. Show me who I am, and show me who You are.

But Jacob still has a long way to go in putting others above himself. We'll see him playing favorites—arranging his family so that those he values most are kept closest to him, and those he sees as less important are placed further out front, more exposed to danger. Look at the order: the maidservants and their children first, then Leah and hers, and Rachel and Joseph last, closest to him. And imagine how that must have broken Leah's heart—once again reminded, "I am unloved. Rachel is favored over me." It must have pained her deeply: "What is it about me that you can't love? Why can't you draw near to me?" Even if Jacob had simply placed Leah and Rachel side by side, it would have spoken volumes. But instead, Leah is once again left to feel the weight of rejection.

God Resists the Proud

If you want a powerful reason to pursue humility, here it is: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. When we choose humility, it's like opening a guaranteed door to God's grace and favor. As Hebrews tells us, in our time of need we will find help. There's real power in that place of humility. When you're in a hard spot, the best thing you can do is humble yourself—because that posture moves the heart of God to pour out His help and strength in your situation.

James 4:6 (NKJV)⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Genesis 32:11 NKJV) "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

(Genesis 32:12 NKJV) "For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

Prays the Word / George Mueller – Argue – Convince / No Man – Govt - Pgm

In this prayer we see Jacob praying God's Word. George Mueller, that great man of faith, said that when you pray, argue with the Lord, be convincing, ohh not to convince Him, but to convince you. When you pray the promise, argue the case, your faith soars as you say yes and amen. As you say that is right Lord you have promised that, told me that, therefore it will come to pass because your word fails not. Remember no man, government, or program can stop the work or plans of God in your life, only you can by your wilful disobedience to Him and His Word.

(Hebrews 11:6 NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Peace – Panic – Plans – Pray / Didn't Pray 1st / Pray – no Panic / Look for Peace of God

Jacob offers peace, then he panics, then he plans, then he prays. Notice that he did not pray first, isn't that so much like us. Prayer should not be our last resort but our first option. Pray, then plan, and you will see there will be no panic, for we will have the peace of God in our lives. Jacob was looking for the peace of Esau in his life, when he should have been looking for the peace of God.

Why Do? / Because we Succeed / We Sell Ourselves Short

You know why we do this, because we so often succeed in the flesh. We plan and succeed, and we become self-sufficient, we say it ended well, so it must have been a good plan. I wonder how much better it would have turned out had we prayed first. Christians I believe we so often sell ourselves short of tremendous by handling things ourselves.

Jacob Prepares a Gift for Esau (32:13–20)

(Genesis 32:13 NKJV) So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother:

We see Jacob that when he finishes praying, he resumes plotting.

Jacob puts his plan together—almost as if he grabbed a piece of paper and pencil and started sketching it all out. He probably drew the distance between himself and Esau, mapped out where the flocks, herds, and family would go, and marked it with arrows and lines, thinking he could control the outcome. But in the end, that plan on paper was worthless. Because what came toward him wasn't what he had planned for—it was like counter-arrows, masses of troops closing in on him. And behind him was that pillar, that boundary stone at Mizpah with Laban. He couldn't go back because Laban was ready to kill him if he crossed it. He couldn't go forward because, in his mind, Esau was waiting to kill him. His plan fell apart, and all that was left was faith—trusting the Lord.

And I'm thankful God puts us in those places where our plans fall apart. Because sometimes what looks good on paper completely unravels in real life. In fact, I pray that if you're working on your plans today—writing things down, trying to figure out which way to go—that they fall apart if they're not from God. My greatest concern is that you might see your plan “working” for a while, only to find out too late how far it will fall.

So yes, plan with wisdom, do things decently and in order—but at the end of the day, come to the end of that paper and say, Lord, unless You build this house, unless You fill these plans, it's all in vain. God may just say, Tear it up—that's not My plan. I have something better for you.

Jacob wrote his plan, and when it failed, then he prayed. I say to you: pray first. Let God write the plan with you, and He'll lead you in the right direction.

(Genesis 32:14 NKJV) two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

(Genesis 32:15 NKJV) thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.

(Genesis 32:16 NKJV) Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves."

(Genesis 32:17 NKJV) And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?'"

(Genesis 32:18 NKJV) "then you shall say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.'"

(Genesis 32:19 NKJV) So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;

(Genesis 32:20 NKJV) "and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

Sends Bribe / Entice Carnal Nature

Jacob tries to send a bribe ahead. He tries to entice the carnal nature of Esau. He uses carnality to reach carnality. It is sad when Christians do that. The ends will never justify the means. Christians never use the flesh to reach the flesh, never lower yourself in hopes of reaching them or changing them. Jacob tries to appease Esau's carnality, and here is the danger of that, verse 21:

What Happened

I look at Jacob and think, What happened? And it reminds me how often I have to ask myself the same question—What happened? For six years, Jacob fully trusted the Lord to do what only God could do. He rested in the confidence that God would take care of him. If the spotted animals were his portion, so be it. If it changed and now the pure ones were his, that was fine too. He had this freedom because he knew God was in control.

But now? He's no longer walking in that freedom. He's consumed with worry, and instead of simply trusting the Lord and saying, Here I am. What I did was wrong, brother. Please forgive me, he starts putting together a plan. He tries to buy Esau off, thinking he can calm his brother's anger with gifts—

working in the flesh rather than relying on God. And honestly, that plan could have backfired. Esau might have thought, If my brother has this much, why take 10% when I could take it all?

Yet even in the midst of Jacob's scheming, the Lord was still going before him, working out His purposes.

Total Freedom

It's a beautiful place to come into when we can just release ourselves and our performance and just knowing that we're not. The one that can make anything happen or come to pass, at least that which is gonna be good and lasting, and I can come to a place of just releasing that it's all the Lord, and I'm free, and I believe one of my greatest prayers of freedom that I have when I speak to the Lord before engaging in something, whether it's ministry or a personal life situation, and I simply say and pray from my heart, Lord, I am nothing you are everything and therefore I can ask you anything and I just have a freedom that it's not on me. It's on the one who possesses all things. owns all things, controls all things, thinks all things. is in the midst of all things, and I can just rest and say, "Come in to this thing, and it's freedom, and you grow in that freedom as you watch yourself fail, you grow in that freedom as you watch your faith grow, knowing whose hand you're in you grow in that freedom that you're free and it's not you. It's all him. And I see Jacob back and forth from freedom into bondage, the freedom brings this sweet release, but the fear brings a bondage that somehow it's gotta figure this out and we watch him back and forth in our chapter today. And is he not so much like you and I? And we have somebody we can relate to, and I can't wait to spend time with Jacob going. Hey, me and you, I can relate to you so let me hang out with you and it's gonna be a beautiful place for all of us

Romans 7&8

Jacob plans, then he plots. Then he turns to prayer—and plots again. Sound familiar? In Jacob, we see growth, hesitation, and moments of bold faith mixed with stumbles and failures. His life is a picture of both leaps of faith and falls into weakness. When we look at Jacob's journey, does it remind you of anyone? It reminds me of Romans 7—the struggle Paul describes. I look at these heroes of the faith—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David—and I see myself. I see it in Peter, in Paul, and especially in those words from Romans 7: "The things I want to do, I don't do; the things I hate, those I do. Oh, who will deliver me from this body of death?"

And then comes the answer: "I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord." And I love what follows: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

The moment we give our lives to Christ, that ultimate transaction is sealed—we belong to Him. We're under new ownership, new management. And whether it takes 20 years or 40, He will finish what He started. In those Romans 7 moments, I can rest without condemnation. And in the victories of Romans 8, I can take no credit—because it's all Him.

Romans 7:18–25 (NKJV)¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8 there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. And you know what else is not in the Lord? There is therefore now no discouragement in the Lord. He's not discouraged by us and our back steps and our slow, forward movement, he knows us and the weakness of us. And he is not discouraged. But he's encouraged that he who began a good work will be faithful to complete. He's going to complete what he's done in you. because the day you gave your life to him, you became his.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Jacob Sends His Family Across the Jabbok (32:21–23)

(Genesis 32:21 NKJV) So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.

(Genesis 32:22 NKJV) And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.

(Genesis 32:23 NKJV) He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.

Jacob takes Burden Back / Will his Plan Work / Mind Racing

Jacob takes the burden back. He planned, prayed, then plotted and now he can't sleep his mind is wandering if his fleshly plan will work. Rather than I called upon the Lord, He promised me through His Word, that settles it, there is nothing more I can do. Jacob will have a rough night of sleep ahead of him we will see.

Jacob is pinched in. If you look at the topography of Mahanaim and Paniel (coming up in a couple verses) and we will see that it is a valley surrounded by hilly, mountainous terrain. It has a water source that is vital to watering the herd. And word is that Esau is coming up, and we know Laban has said don't even think of ever returning (the heap of rocks as a reminder we saw in chapter 30-31 study), and Jacob is literally between a rock and a hard place.

20 Years Ago / Converted – Now Broken / Happy Feet - Limping

Jacob sends the family ahead so he will be alone. It was 20 years ago Jacob had a restless night of sleep, and it was on that night that he was converted there at Bethuel. Now, this night, he is going to be broken, set apart from the old Jacob the liar and schemer. Tonight he will become Israel, the one who is governed by God. It is interesting that when he left Bethuel he left with happy feet, a spring in his step, but here he will leave with a limp.

Jacob Wrestles with God (32:24–32)

(Genesis 32:24 NKJV) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

Emptying

Jabbok (32:22), means emptying, and this is where Jacob will be emptied of himself. He was saved twenty years ago (Gen 28), but he still had much (if not mostly) the old man, the carnal man, the self-made man in him that needed to be emptied and dealt with..... so as to become the father of the nations.

Ephesians 4:20–24 (NKJV)²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Imagine Jacob trying to sleep knowing that Esau was a great hunter, as with every big game hunter someone who know how to move by stealth, knowing every twig crackle, using shadows, and tree and rocks for covering, and covering scent, all the way to the point that if the prey knew he was there, it was too late. By the time prey heard the whisp of the arrow through the air, the next sound was a thump, and vital organ. Try as Jacob may..... No rest, and the stage is set.

I wonder how the Lord made first contact in this physical wrestling match.....no matter how, I would think Jacob starts the match with high anxiety, heart pounding ready to beat out of his chest.

The God Man

The Man, was the God Man, Jesus Christ. The Man was the one that Jacob saw at the top of the ladder: *(Genesis 28:12 NKJV)* Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

I like that it says the man if we were writing as we're viewing the account, we don't know who this man is until a few verses later which would be possibly a few hours later in the account and then it's none other than the God man Jesus Christ. But I think there's a power here as I remind myself that we get to live in

the present with the knowledge of the future. that we know in the middle of our wrestling, we know in the middle of our trowels. We know there's a God who meets us, speaks to us, delivered us, guards us. At a yet future time, which could be a minute later, an hour later, or 20 years later. But the man Christ Jesus.. Is the God man who understands all of our weaknesses, all of our temptations. It shows up in the midst of them, even when we haven't even come to the realization that he's there. Oh, I give thanks for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Afraid to be Alone

I think we are afraid to be alone. I think we almost can't stand silence and therefore we always have to have some screen in front of us or some type of sound in front of us. And there's a place that we see just like here in Jacob that God will move all the pieces to get us alone. He's been waiting on this and working on this, I believe, for 20 years now, since Bethel to get Jacob into a place all alone just him and the Lord and it's a beautiful place when God gets you alone. And I hope you can settle into it. I hope you can look forward to entering into it. And you know, sometimes our time alone isn't necessarily like this one night alone with the Lord. It might be what we call sanctified loneliness. The God just gets you alone for a season because he wants to speak to you during this season. He wants to speak a lot of things to you during a season and bring you out. At the end of that season, a totally changed man or woman. But then there's always these moments like this where God just wants to get you alone and it could be even right here and right now, even though you're in the midst of a crowd of people that he gets you alone, that he can speak to you. And as we'll see, wrestle with you, that he can do something great in you

Psalm 46:10-11 (NKJV)¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

(Genesis 32:25 NKJV) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

Get Dusty / Close Combat

אבק (avaq) — Wrestled

•Found in Genesis 32:24 (Heb. v.25) — “And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled (אבק) a man with him...”

•The root אבק literally refers to “getting dusty” or “engaging in a struggle that stirs up dust.”

•The imagery is of intense, close combat — a deeply personal struggle.

Pops Hip / God Knew / God Purposely Hurts him

God pops Jacob's hip out. God knew what it would take to break him, He knew exactly what Jacob needed. God knows exactly what we need, what it is for our best interest. Here we will see that God purposely hurts him. Yes, see it, the God of Love personally hurts him, personally inflicts pain upon Jacob

Ran Esau / Ran Laban / Last Resource Run / Can't Run

Jacob had escaped Esau the first time by running, he tried to escape Laban by sneaking away, but here God removes that option, pops out his hip and Jacob has exhausted his last resource, his last fail-safe option. Jacob always knew, he could run. Jacob cannot run, he cannot be reliant on his planning and plotting now, he must become reliant on the Lord.

Sometimes God Allows Pain / Slow Down – Get Attention / How Could He?

Sometimes pain in our lives does come from God, he allows it into our life. Sometimes He will do this to slow us down, to get our attention, to break us of something that needs to be rid of in our lives. To bring us closer to Him; how could a God of love allow this, do this to us, verse 26:

(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

Bless Me / Never Asked Before

Jacob says you can not leave me until you bless me. Jacob begs for a blessing; notice, something he had never asked for before, let alone begged for. Hosea 12:3-4 is the commentary on this event:

(Hosea 12:3 NKJV) He took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength he struggled with God.

(Hosea 12:4 NKJV) Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us;

Spiritual Examination – Prayer Life

Hosea 12 said that after God broke this carnal man, this carnal man became a man of prayer. He turned and learned prayer here in this moment. And you know, if you want to evaluate yourself on how am I doing spiritually, one of the greatest self examinations you can do is how's my prayer life. Am I praying, not thy will, but your will be done? Are we praying to the Lord to show up and do a work? Are we praying to the Lord to do a work in us? Are we interceding for those around us? Are we facing these situations in life through prayer or through our own means and intellect. I think one of the greatest ways that I see how I am doing spiritually, and it comes and goes and seasons is my prayer life. The depths of it or the shallowness of it. And here, Jacob became a man of prayer after he was broken. and give thanks to the Lord when you become broken and it leads you to become a man or woman of prayer.

Jacob Crying – Begging

Jacob is surely not the one in control here, like he has God in a back breaker and Jacob is saying bless me or I'll make it hurt more, there is no tapping out. Jacob is crying, begging, and pleading. Jacob had to be broken, and God breaks him here.

Don't Want to Live Without You

What's he saying when he says, I will not let you go. until you bless me. He's saying, "Lord, I don't want to let you go. I don't want to live without you ever again. I don't want to do any of these things without you again. Oh, what a beautiful moment that we have here. He's not asking for this prosperity. He's asking for the person. I don't want you to go. I don't want to be apart from you and alone from you ever again. What a beautiful place when we ask the Lord that in our life. Lord, I don't want to go alone. I want to wake up with you tomorrow. I want to lay my head down with you tomorrow. I want to walk with you through the day. I want to experience your presence and I want to experience intimacy with you. I love your touch. I love your care. Even when you have to break me. Even when you have to put me and hobble me because of my pride, I still would take that over being whole and walking by myself and my ways and walking alone in my will in my ways. I'd rather hobble through life and lean upon you. Then walk straight, upright, yet all alone.

(Genesis 32:27 NKJV) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Owning Up to Name / Isaac Asked / Jacob Finally Admits

The Lord is having Jacob own up to his name, Jacob what is your name? Sound familiar, his father Isaac said what is your name, you feel like Esau, you smell like Esau, but you don't sound like him, what is your name, and Jacob said it is your son Esau. God is making Jacob own up to his name, which means heel catcher, more literally translated to be schemer and conniver. Jacob here finally admits to who he really is; I am Jacob, a schemer and conniver.

Jacob Comes Clean / Now God can Work

He comes clean and God says new name, Israel, which means, "Governed by God". When you see yourself for who you really are, see it in your heart and not just your head, then God says now I can work with you, I can make you who I want you to be.

Given in Genesis 32:28 — "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel (יִשְׂרָאֵל), because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed."

- The name is connected to the root שָׂרָה (sarah) — "to strive, contend, or rule."

- The new name marks a transformation in Jacob's identity: from "heel-grabber" (supplanter) to one who contends with God.

The Blessing – Was the New Name

Do see here what the blessing ultimately was to Jacob? It is the new name, identifying the new nature, a man who going forward (though God still has work to do in him) will be governed by God, u

(Genesis 32:29 NKJV) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

(Genesis 32:30 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

What Your Name / Show Me More / Live to the Knowledge /

Jacob asks God His name, but God says you know. You know, and now you will live according to your knowledge. That is a word for us, we know who we have had a personal encounter with, and it cannot continually be show me more, show me more, but God says live today according to the knowledge you have, walk in my way. God said to Jacob's grandfather Abraham:

(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

2 Faces

פְּנִיָּאֵל / פְּנוּאֵל (Penuel / Peniel) — Face of God

- Genesis 32:30 — "Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.'"

- The name combines panim (face) and El (God).

פָּנִים (panim) — Face

- Seen in Genesis 32:20 (Heb. v.21) — "I will appease him with the present that goes before me; and afterward I will see his face."

- Also in Genesis 32:30 (Heb. v.31) — "I have seen God face to face (פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים), and my life is preserved."

- The repetition of face ties together Jacob's fear of Esau and his encounter with God. Jacob seeks Esau's favor, but first must confront God.

(Genesis 32:31 NKJV) Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

(Genesis 32:32 NKJV) Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

Limped – but touched by God

So he limped, for he was broken by God, or if you have experienced such a moment, you don't see so much the brokenness, but that you were touched by God.

Shank Today

Still to this day the Jewish people do not eat the shank of an animal. To them it means that is the place that Jacob was touched by God. I wish today the Jewish people would read this story, and they themselves say I want to experience what Jacob did, I want to see you God, I want you to touch me. I wish Christians would do the same, I wish we all would say I want to see you Lord, I want to be touched by you, even if I have to wrestle through the night, it would be worth it to see you and be touched by you.

The Morning with Kids / Walk Never be the Same

I wonder what the morning must have been like as Jacob came limping to his family. The kids would ask, daddy what happened to you, are you all right, and Jacob would say I am fine, for last night I met with God, face to face, and my walk will never be the same.

Need this Staff / Constant Reminder / Children would Know

Every step I take, I will need to lean on this staff, and it will be a constant reminder to me that I will need to lean on the Lord, I will need to be governed by God. As the years would pass the children would see and know that the key to their fathers life was leaning upon the Lord. Parent your Christian kids will

remember, it will be your legacy, of how you were governed by God, or not governed by God. It won't be how big your portfolio was, how high on the corporate ladder you climbed, they will remember how much you were governed by God.

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

Leaned on Lord / Cleaver – Intelligent – Charisma / Self-Made / They will Fail – Draw Me

Jacob leaned on the Lord, not his cleverness, his intelligence, nor his charisma, but the Lord. Jacob had all these traits, any major corporation would love to have him, but God said Jacob you are too self-made, too self-sufficient, I am going to have to break you so you will lean upon me. You see your intelligence, charisma, they are so puny in comparison to me, so I will have to let you fall, fail, and break so you will abandon those things, so you will draw from Me, from My strength, from My wisdom, My power. You will be Israel, governed by God.

Maybe You are Hurting / God Concerned Eternal State – Than Present Comfort

Maybe you are hurting tonight and want God to take the pain away. Listen Christian, God is more concerned about your eternal state than your present comfort. God will inflict, break you, in order to develop you and strengthen you into the man or woman that is governed by God.

Sometimes Only Suffering / Get in Pin Position

Sometimes it is only suffering that will work out the things of ourselves, and work in the things of God. We can know things in our heads but they have yet to take root in our heart. It is always best that when God shows up in His wrestling suit to immediately get in the pin position, but sometimes we just can't see it, until He inflicts that pain upon us, gets our attention, slows us down.

We Suffer not Alone

When we do suffer, we are not alone in our suffering, Christ also suffered;

(1 Peter 4:1 NKJV) Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

(1 Peter 4:2 NKJV) that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Jesus Passionate about Us / Broken for You

Jesus said I am so passionately in love with you, care so deeply about you, that I too was broken, not for me, but for you. When times are tough, times are hard, go back to the communion table and take the broken bread and see the body that was broken for you, partake of the cup, the heart that bursts for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

Wordplay

Genesis 32 is rich in Hebrew wordplay that underscores:

- The themes of confrontation, transformation, and divine encounter
- Jacob's transition from fear of Esau's face to seeing God's face
- A shift from human scheming to divine striving (from Jacob to Israel)

Jacob Sees Esau Approaching (33:1–3)

(Genesis 33:1 NKJV) Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants.

(Genesis 33:2 NKJV) And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last.

(Genesis 33:3 NKJV) Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

Rachel was last, we see Jacob's favoritism here towards Rachel.

Customary for Kings

Jacob here playing the peacemaker; bowing seven times before a person was customary in those days as a person would bow seven times before a king.

Unbelief is such a thief cause unbelief always keeps saying, what if in adding a scenario, the challenges, the belief and faith, unbelief is such a thief.

Imagine this..... reverse everything.....and first to meet Esau, with everything else behind him, was Jacob! It's about me and you brother, I come to you first..... Deal with me as you wish, as I trust that I am in the Lord's hand now.

Esau and Jacob Reconcile (33:4–7)

(Genesis 33:4 NKJV) But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

(Genesis 33:5 NKJV) And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

(Genesis 33:6 NKJV) Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down.

(Genesis 33:7 NKJV) And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down.

Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down.

The language of reconciliation

•The chapter describes Jacob's meeting with Esau after their long estrangement. The verbs and emotional terms convey genuine vulnerability and emotion.

•וַיָּרָץ עִשָּׂו לִקְרָאתוֹ (vayyāraṣ 'ēšāw liqrātō) — "Esau ran to meet him" (Gen 33:4)

The verb וַיָּרָץ (ran) conveys eagerness and emotion, reminiscent of the father running to the prodigal son (Luke 15:20 — interesting parallel).

•וַיִּפֹּל עַל-צְוִאָרָיו (vayyipol 'al-šāw'ārāw) — "and fell on his neck"

This expression appears in other deeply emotional reunions in the Hebrew Bible (e.g., Joseph and Benjamin in Gen 45:14).

Esau Peaceful / Proverbs 16

Interesting reaction of Esau here; twenty years ago he wanted to kill Jacob, but here we see Esau running to Jacob, kissing his neck, and crying. Esau was so softened here, so gentle and kind to Jacob. Did God visit him in a dream, maybe but the word doesn't say so. What I am reminded of is:

(Proverbs 16:7 NKJV) When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Jacob Insists on Giving His Gift (33:8–11)

(Genesis 33:8 NKJV) Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord."

Grace Before Man / God the Game Show Host / He is Looking to Bless / Free Lunches

Jacob is trying to find grace before man, so he sends all these things ahead. He has the mindset that if I do this this and that, then maybe I will get a favourable reaction from Esau. You know for the longest time that was my relationship with the Lord. I thought I could earn His favor, His grace. If I do this this and that, then He will be pleased with me and want to bless me. I literally was making God out to be some Game Show Host. Precious people we don't have to make deals with God to something from Him. Now God doesn't wink at sin, but that is for our protection. But He does want to bless us, His grace is unmerited, unearned favour. So often we think it is something we have to do before we can receive something from Him. I have to go to church, I have to pray, I have to read, etc before He will bless me, it is not so, He loves us because we are His kids and He really wants to bless us. We have been conditioned that there are no free lunches, but truly there are with the Lord:

(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Grace - God's Riches at Christ Expense. Look what Esau says:

(Genesis 33:9 NKJV) But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."

Esau Picture of Flesh – Says Don't Need It / How Much more God Says that

Esau is a picture of the flesh, and he says keep it, I don't need it. How much more does that apply to our Heavenly Father: God says for us to boldly come before the throne of grace, come and expect a blessing from Him He is saying to us:

(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

When Blow It / Satan's Lie / Ask Forgiveness – Dust Off – Move On / Son - Daughter

When we have blown it, come to Him. Don't fall for that lie of Satan that God won't receive you. This is so hard for us, but God says come. When we blow it, ask for forgiveness, then dust yourself off and say lets put this behind us Lord and move on. Come to Him as a son, as a daughter, and say Father I need you, and claim the promise - boldly come.

Freedom Biblical Christianity / Religions based on Performance

This is the freedom of Biblical Christianity; all other religions are based on your performance, and places it on your responsibility. That is why someone will strap explosives on themselves and pull the cord, or cut themselves, or knock on 10,000 doors, pray 3 times a day, fast for the month, because they can never rest, because there is no grace offered.

Not responsibility but Grace / Grace Makes us Respond

Christian it is not responsibility but grace, and it is that grace that makes us respond. Our hearts want more of Him, therefore we want to read, we want to pray, we want to fellowship, we want to tell others, we are willing to sacrifice; for it is not I have to, but I get to. God you are so good to me.

(Genesis 33:10 NKJV) And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.

(Genesis 33:11 NKJV) "Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." So he urged him, and he took it.

So Esau finally takes it.

Favor

Repeated use of favor/grace language

- Jacob repeatedly speaks of Esau's favor:

- מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינָיֶיךָ (māṣā'tī hēn be'ēnêkā) — "I have found favor in your eyes" (Gen 33:10, 15)

- The Hebrew word חֵן (hēn) = favor, grace, acceptance — a key term that signals Jacob's deep desire for reconciliation and peace.

Divinely Meditated

Theological language

- When Jacob refers to seeing Esau:

- כִּי עַל-כֵּן רָאִיתִי פָנֶיךָ כְּרֹאֶת פְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים (ki 'al-kēn rā'itī pānêkā kir'ot penê 'elohim) — "For I have seen your face as one sees the face of God" (Gen 33:10). This parallels his experience in chapter 32 (Peniel = face of God), indicating Jacob interprets this reconciliation as divinely mediated.

I think one of the greatest prayers we can pray when there's this interpersonal conflict between people is that God you would mediate and God that you would win because of God wins then all parties win and here we see a win for he saw and Jacob together.

Here is great counsel in every interpersonal mediation, ask that the Lord mediates, and ask that "He wins". For when God wins, everyone will win.

Esau Offers to Accompany Jacob (33:12–16)

(Genesis 33:12 NKJV) Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you."

(Genesis 33:13 NKJV) But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die.

(Genesis 33:14 NKJV) "Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."

Seir is in Edom, it is not in the Promised Land.

My Lord

Subtle honorific and deferential speech

- Jacob consistently calls Esau אֲדֹנָי ('ādōnāi, my lord) (e.g., Gen 33:8, 13, 14)
- He refers to himself as עֲבָדְךָ ('avdekā, your servant)

This repeated deferential language emphasizes humility and the desire to pacify Esau.

(Genesis 33:15 NKJV) And Esau said, "Now let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."

(Genesis 33:16 NKJV) So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

They Reconcile / Look at Esau's Actions – Stuff – Kiss – Help / Great Guy

So here we see a beautiful ending to this story, Jacob and Esau are reconciled. But consider this, Esau doesn't want Jacob's stuff, he kisses him, and he wants to help his return home; Esau here is just really a nice guy, a kind, friendly, a really great guy. Yet in Hebrews we read God's view of him:

(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Picture of Flesh – Doomed / The Nice People Around Us / Esau no Desire of Things God

Esau is a Biblical picture of the flesh, God points him out as a picture of the flesh, a doomed and damned man. We have Esau's all around us, neighbours, friends, family, they are so nice, so friendly, a class act, and in many many cases they are nicer and treat us better than other Christians do. But the fact is they are still separated from the Father because of their sin, their sin has not been dealt with. As nice as Esau was, we see him heading back to Seir in Edom, he doesn't go to the Promised land because he has no desire for the things of the Lord.

Verse 9 – Verse 11 / God Looking to Bless – Humble People / In the Church

Back to our point on grace. Notice that in verse 9 Esau says I have enough, but in verse 11 Jacob speaking of his riches says that God has been gracious to me. People, God is looking for people to bless, for people who know it is all because He has been gracious. People who know it is all from Him, and nothing to do with me. I'm not talking name-it claim-it, but recognition of the God of All Grace. Let's apply that especially here in the church, God moves so powerfully in Churches that recognize that it is all Him. It is a death sentence to a Church when a Pastor thinks it is something to do with him, when a worship team's stops worshipping and starts performing. God moves where He receives all the glory.

Why is God Like This / Everything is Flawed

Why is God like that? Why will He not share His glory? Is He a glory hog? No God will not share His glory with any man because if people look to anyone other than God they will be hurt, they will be disappointed, they could even be destroyed. Every government, political system, person, or program is flawed because man is flawed by sin. Everything is flawed except God, and therefore that is where man will find his all-in-all.

Jacob Journeys to Succoth and Shechem (33:17–20)

(Genesis 33:17 NKJV) And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

Unequally Yoked

Now here is the separation. The Spirit reveals to Jacob what Paul has told us, do not be unequally yoked:

(2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

(2 Corinthians 6:15 NKJV) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

(2 Corinthians 6:17 NKJV) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

(2 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV) "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Marriage – Business / Marriage – Manual – Plans / Jacob Separates

We are not to be unequally yoked in marriage, in business partnership. If you put a yoke on an oxen and a horse you are going to have problems. Believer marry an unbeliever and your life will be filled with pain. Go into business partnership with an unbeliever and your business will experience problems. A close friend of mine from Bible College entered into a business partnership and his partner robbed him blind – I couldn't understand how a college graduate could question God's wisdom. Singles, don't do it, no matter how lonely you get, don't do it. Even if they are as nice as Esau, a polished and gem of a person, don't do it. They are not working from the same manual, they have a different plan for life than you do. Esau was a doomed and damned man, and Jacob separates himself from him.

(Genesis 33:18 NKJV) Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city.

Place names

- סוכות (Sukkoth) — meaning booths or shelters (Gen 33:17)
- שָׁלֵם (Shalem) — means peace or whole (Gen 33:18), possibly indicating Jacob's arrival in a state of peace after years of conflict.

(Genesis 33:19 NKJV) And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

(Genesis 33:20 NKJV) Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.

In Promise Land / Shechem Evil Place / Major Trade

Shechem is technically in the Promised Land, but it was an evil place, it was a carnal place. Notice that he pitches his tent before the city, reminds us of Lot. Shechem was an ancient and important fortified city, situated between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim at the intersection of the major trade routes through central Palestine, this reflects so much of Lot in Sodom.

Back in Land / Not Totally Obedient

Jacob has, now, come back into the land; but, is still not totally obedient for God had said to return to the land and to his family.

(Genesis 31:3 KJV) And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

Isaac in Hebron

His family is some eighty miles away. We will see in Genesis 35 that his father Isaac is Hebron. Hebron is about 20 miles south of Jerusalem. Shechem to Hebron is about 80 miles.

(Genesis 35:27 NKJV) Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.

(Genesis 35:28 NKJV) Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.

(Genesis 35:29 NKJV) So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Jacob Builds Altar / To Obey better

Jacob builds an altar, he makes a statement, but he really isn't where he should be. The Lord says to us that obedience is better than sacrifice:

(1 Samuel 15:22 NKJV) Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams."

His disobedience became costly.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need