



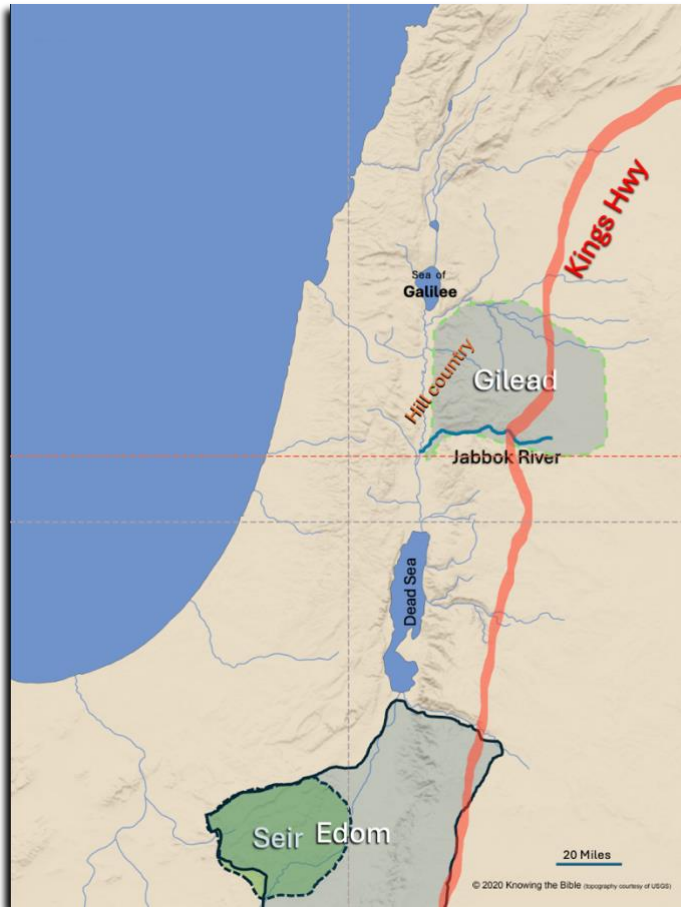
Genesis 32

^{32:1} Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ² And when Jacob saw them he said, “This is God's camp!” So he called the name of that place **Mahanaim**.

- Angels of God
 - I have not knowingly seen an angel, well, not counting my wife Katie! 😊
 - They are described as “Ministering spirits”: [Hebrews 1:14](#) – Are they not all **ministering spirits** sent out to serve **for the sake of those** who are to inherit salvation?
 - I believe angels are assigned to us.
 - [Matthew 18:10](#) – “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven **their angels** always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.
 - Freddie Fred Boat story, Manasquan River. I was about to drown and was pushed out of the water.
 - Hebrews says we sometimes entertain angels without knowing: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained **angels** unawares. –[Hebrews 13:2](#)
- **Mahanaim**: Two camps- Jacob’s and God’s
 - Even if we don't always perceive God’s presence, it doesn't mean He isn't with us.

³ And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, ⁴ instructing them, “Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, ‘I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now.

- Map to Seir country in Edom around 180 miles



⁵ I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.” ⁶ And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him.” ⁷ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps,

- “I have...” I am not coming to get my blessing rights or inheritance (Isaac was still alive anyway)
- Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed – This is legit fear.



- 400 men is most likely not a welcoming party!
- 20 years ago, he left because Esau was planning to kill him [Genesis 27:41-42](#)
- The messengers would have told Jacob if Esau was happy and joyous.

⁸ thinking, “If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape.”

⁹ And Jacob said, “**O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac,**

O LORD who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you

good,’ ¹⁰ **I am not worthy** of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.

¹¹ **Please deliver me from the hand of my brother,** from the hand of Esau, **for I fear him,** that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. ¹² **But you said,** ‘I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

- **FINALLY!** Someone from Abraham’s family prays about their situation instead of just acting from fear!
 - This is the correct response to fear!
 - Remember, Jacob just saw the host of angels from God, yet now he is terrified.
 - You can have an encounter with God (or His messengers) and still be afraid because of circumstances.
 - We are human (sheep)
- Look at **Jacob’s 1st prayer** 20 years ago:
 - [Genesis 28:19](#) –He called the name of that place **Bethel**, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, **then** the LORD shall



be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

- He is still deal-making: "If God will...then..."
- In this latest prayer, he is broken, no deal-making, just worship and honesty!
 - This is very much like us.
 - Jacob became a believer back in [Genesis 28:10-22](#)
 - Now he is being sanctified and **emptied**/ changed
 - When we 1st had an encounter with God we still had much of our self-driven flesh on me/myself/I theology to overcome
 - Now, many of us are much farther along in our walk and hopefully have less of the old self because God has worked and is working!
 - Look at this new prayer:
 - "⁹ O LORD who said to me...", & "¹² But you said..."
 - A great technique is to pray back the Word! You said!
 - It doesn't remind God; it reminds us!
 - When we are afraid, we can say:
 - Lord, Your **promises are yes** for us in Christ – [2 Corinthians 1:20](#)
 - Lord, you are **my healer**: [Exodus 15:26](#) –²⁶ saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your **healer**."
 - My **Shepherd**: [Psalm 23](#)!
 - My **provider**: [Philippians 4:19](#) – "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."



- My **wisdom**: 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 – ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us **wisdom from God**, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

¹³ So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, ¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

¹⁵ thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

- **550** animals total – look at these numbers!
 - **How Many Lambs Can Ewes Have?** – Most commonly, ewes have either a single lamb or twins. Triplets or more are possible in some breeds and highly managed flocks.¹
 - **Lambs** are less than 12 months old. Adult **sheep** are 12 months and older. Adult females are called **ewes**. Adult males are called **rams**.²

¹⁶ These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, “Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove.” ¹⁷ He instructed the first, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, ‘To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?’

¹⁸ then you shall say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.’” ¹⁹ He likewise instructed the second and the third and all

¹ <https://americanfarmsteadholders.com/what-is-a-female-sheep-called/>

² <https://extension.msstate.edu/blogs/extension-for-real-life/whats-the-difference-between-lambs-and-sheep>



who followed the droves, “You shall say the same thing to Esau when you find him, ²⁰ and you shall say, ‘Moreover, your servant Jacob is behind us.’” For he thought, “I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me.”

- “Jacob forgot that God’s commandment always involves God’s enablement, for the will of God will never lead us where the power of God can’t protect us and provide for us. But Jacob’s imagination ran ahead of his theology, and he was sure Esau was coming to destroy him.” – Warren Wiersbe³
- Perhaps he will accept me – Aren’t we most blessed to know for sure that we are accepted in Christ?

²¹ So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp.



Jacob Wrestles with God

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. **And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.** ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

Jabbok River: Zarqa River in Jordan today



³ (Wiersbe 2007)



- **“Jabbok** = "emptying" – a stream which intersects the mountain range of Gilead, and falls into the Jordan on the east about midway between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea”⁴ – *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew*

²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” ²⁷ And he said to him, **“What is your name?”** And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, **but Israel**, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him.

- **What is your name?** – The “man” knew. This is basically the same question that Jacob’s dad asked over 20 years before:
 - [Genesis 27:18-19](#) – ¹⁸ So he went in to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. **Who are you, my son?**” ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.”
 - [Genesis 27:24](#) – ²⁴ He said, **“Are you really my son Esau?”** He answered, “I am.”
 - Now he answers honestly: Jacob/ heel catcher/ supplanter
- *Yisrael*

⁴ <https://www.studylight.org/lexicons/eng/hebrew/2999.html>



- [Strong's 3478](#), *Yisrael*, a proper name, - [Strong's H8280](#), ***sârâh***, a primitive root meaning to place in a row, i.e., to **prevail**; and from [Strong's H410](#), *el*, a concrete noun meaning god or God, hero,
- The name change shows a change in his nature. He is no longer the shady/heel catcher/supplanter. He is one whose life is **governed by God**
 - From this point, Israel and Jacob will be used for him.
 - Some have tried to make a case that when Jacob is used, he is acting in the flesh; when Israel is used, he is being led by the Spirit.

³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For **I have seen God face to face**, and yet my life has been delivered." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

- [Hosea 12:3-4](#) – ³ In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. ⁴ **He strove with the angel** and prevailed; **he wept** and sought his favor. He met God **at Bethel**, and there God spoke with us—
 - Hosea wrote 730-753 before Christ was born, about 1100 years after Jacob.
 - **The angel** – This is more insight from Scripture about this "man."
- **I have seen God face to face** – No one can see His face and live [Exodus 33:20](#)
 - Yet here God is seen. How?
 - [John 1:18](#) – ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
 - He saw Jesus in OT/ Christophany



- **He wept** – Again, insight on this section from another location.
 - Why did he weep? Was he **emptied out** and just done? Nothing left, no scheme, no con to pursue?
 - Brokenness before God is a good place.
 - [Psalm 51:17](#) – ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a **broken** spirit:
a **broken** and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
 - Breaking of “I”
 - How many people think, “When **I** get myself together, then **I** will get right with God.”
 - Or, “I have some things I want to do 1st and then I will reach out to Him”

The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.