

The MESSage “JACOB”

HEART OF THIS SERIES: Israel report.....Summed up the story of Jesus!

- Major marking points that all lead to Jesus?**
- Biblical foundations!**

TIMELINE: ADAM.....NOAH.....ABRAHAM.....ISAAC.....JACOB

*About 400 years and 10 Generations passed between Noah and Abraham

Abraham would have a boy named ISAAC

Isaac had 2 boys.....Jacob and Esau

Jacob's name was changed to ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S sons & grandsons made up the 12 tribes of Israel! HISTORY!!!!

Hebrews 11:20-21 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

THERE IS A LOT OF DRAMA IN THIS ONE SENTENCE!

-Sermon from January “Delayed Destiny”

Jacob's entire life can be summed up in one word: conflict.

This guy came out of the womb fighting with his twin brother Esau.

- In fact he was holding on. He was second born. Twin brothers, Esau was born first.
- When Esau came out of the womb, Jacob was holding on to his ankle. They named him “Supplanter” or Jacob – deceiver, cheater.

From that point on, Jacob and Esau fought in an unusual way.

In fact, Jacob cheated his brother out of his inheritance. So Jacob and his brother were estranged from each other their entire life.

STORY: Death bed trickery!!

Gen 27:18-29 ¹⁸ He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?" ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing." ²⁰ Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?"

"The LORD your God gave me success," he replied. ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." ²² Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him. ²⁴ "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," he replied. ²⁵ Then he said, "My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing." Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me." ²⁷ So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed. ²⁸ May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. ²⁹ May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."

....Jacob stole his brother's birthright and his blessing!

JACOB SEEMED TO HAVE CONFLICT EVERYWHERE:

- Conflict with his brother, conflict with his wife, conflict with his father-in-law,
- conflict with his brothers-in-law, conflict with God.

IN GEN 31 & 32 Jacob is between a rock and a hard place.

What's happened is he's got two conflicts going on!!!

First, he's got a conflict going on with his father-in-law. His father-in-law was named Laban.

Genesis 31:1-2 Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." ² And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been.

There was a huge conflict that had been building up for 20 years!!!

-Read the whole chapter:

Laban actually cheated Jacob and Jacob ended up serving his father-in-law fourteen years to marry his wife.

He actually married two daughters – Leah and Rachel.

- Jacob felt mistreated by Laban for 20 years.
- he worked 7 years for Rachel...he got LEAH!
- he worked another 7 years for Rachel...
- he worked another 6 years for the livestock!

There was bad blood between Laban and Jacob. 20 YEARS OF HISTORY!

Genesis 31:38-42 “I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks. ³⁹ I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night. ⁴⁰ This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes. ⁴¹ It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. ⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you.”

There is conflict surfacing that has been brewing for 2 decades!!

- Jacob decided to take his whole family and leave!
 - they sneak out and hit the road heading for his homeland!
- by now he has 2 wives (both Laban’s daughters) and 11 kids (Laban’s grandkids)
 - he has become very wealthy and has huge herds of Goats, Cattle and sheep.

NOT EASY TO LEAVE QUIETLY!!!

Laban follows him and catches up with the clan.....

- Everything takes 3 times as long with kids!

LABAN AND JOSEPH MAKE A TRUCE.....”They agree to disagree”

-Grandpa Laban kissed his daughters and grandkids goodbye!

NOW JACOB IS HEADING HOME.....BUT TO A TICKED OFF BROTHER!

-Esau and Jacob had been estranged for well over 2 decades!

-Jacob was 2nd born and stole the “Birthright”

Jacob decided to send a card and some gifts:

Genesis 32: 13-15 He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau: ¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵ thirty female camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

-Let’s back this story up.....

Genesis 32:3-5 Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ² When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is the camp of God!” So he named that place Mahanaim. ³ Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. ⁴ He instructed them: “This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: ‘Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. ⁵ I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes.’”

CHECK OUT THIS RESPONSE!!

Genesis 32:6 When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, “We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.”

JACOB IS TERRIFIED!

-Conflict on one side with his father-in-law.....his estranged brother on the other side!

COMING WITH 400 men!!!

-Jacob split them into 2 groups in case he attacked!

Genesis 32:9-12 Then Jacob prayed, “O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, ‘Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,’ ¹⁰ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown

your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. ¹¹ Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. ¹² But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'"

He's reaping a lifetime of choices. It's out of his hands now.

-He is standing on the promise God had made to him!

ESAU GRACIOUSLY FORGAVE HIS BROTHER!

Genesis 32:22-24 That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.

SEEMS LIKE A FUNNY TIME TO WRESTLE? GET OUT SOME AGGRESSION??

Hosea 12:3-5 In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God. He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor. He found him at Bethel and talked with him there— the LORD God Almighty, the LORD is his name!

-Have you ever stayed up all night wrestling with God??

-alone.....thinking.....mind running a mile a minute!!

COULD IT BE:

-His biggest conflict is not really with his brother.

-His biggest conflict is not really with his father-in-law or his wife or anybody else.

His biggest struggle is really with God.

HUGE POINT TO CATCH:

God doesn't mind having a wrestling match with you.

-Because wrestling is a contact sport. It means you're up close.

And God would rather have you up close wrestling with him – “God, I don't like this in my life!” Then you have distant and apathetic.

He'd rather have you going, "God, I don't like the situation I'm going through right now! I'm ticked off, God! I'm mad. Let's have it out. Let's wrestle!"

God says "Fine. Let's do it. Bring it on.

He'd rather have you up close and angry than far away and apathetic.
That's really it. Who's going to be God in your life?

Does God have a right to tell you what to do?
Does God have a right to call the shots in your life?

What is my struggle with God? And what is your struggle with God?

Our biggest struggle is often when things don't happen the way you want them to and they don't go as fast as you want them to. You take matters into your own hands.

We often don't wait and we don't trust God and we don't pray and we don't sit back and we don't think God will provide for our needs and we get in a hurry.

The root of MANY conflicts in life is, WE want to be in charge. WE want to be God.

WE want to call the shots. WE want to run it. WE want to make Our life our way.

The root of many of our problems is we want to be in control.

God says, "Ok, let's have it out. Let's go to the mat. Let's wrestle. You and me. One on one. Let's have it out. Let's see who's really in charge here."

I love the analogy of wrestling. Because the whole purpose of wrestling – the whole purpose of wrestling is to pin the guy. To pin him down on the mat.

He'll wrestle with you as long as it takes.

-WE HIT A CRISIS AND GIVE UP!!!!

The fact is, we don't change until our pain exceeds the fear of change.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO JACOB?

Genesis 32:24-27 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.
JACOB WRESTLED WITH GOD AL NIGHT? WHY

-God could have put him in a full nelson and forced him to surrender!

-God throttled back for some reason?

-God was developing Jacob!

-God knew what it would take to get Jacob to surrender!

THEN.....GOD ASKED HIM HIS NAME???

God obviously knew Jacob's name??? BUT HE STILL ASKS???

WHY??? Jacob needed to admit what he was.

And Jacob's name means "deceiver."

So all of his life he had lived up to his name.

He deceived his dad, he deceived his father-in-law, he deceives his wife, he deceived his brother.

When Jacob says, "I am Jacob," he's saying I'm willing to admit who I am!

WE HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH WHO WE REALLY ARE!

Genesis 32:27-28 The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

Jacob became the father of the great nation of Israel!

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

Israel means “God Perseveres, God Contends”

Listen closely to me: when God does his deepest work in you, he does his deepest work in your identity. In who you are.

He changes your identity. How you see yourself.

Because the way you see yourself affects everything else in your life.

-You act according to the way you see yourself.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.

RESPONSE: 1) You are in a wrestling match with God!

2) You need to be made new