

## GN, PT 68-WRESTLING W/GD(GN 32)

>>We're in a vs-by-vs study of Bk of Gen

>>>Where we've been talking ab J&Esau

>>>>& tdy—we come to one of the most well-known passages in all the OT

>>>We want to look at wht happened

>>>Thn talk abt wht diff makes fr us tdy

[READY]

### I- PASSAGE GEN 32

#### A. Background

1. WE'VE SEEN: tht Jcb had a hrt tht was sensitive to God/sp. things

2. But also seen: *tht he had an intense self-will*

\*Tht caused hm not to trust&obey Gd

\*But to tke mtrs into his own hands

\*& con/scheme/manipulate his way

3. Hwevr--here in Gn 32--Gd has a divine appointment fr Jacob tht's going to solve this duplicity frevr

[LET'S PICK UP THE STORY]

B. Gn 31:3--“Thn Lrd said to Jcb, ‘Go bck, now, to the land of yur fthrs & to yur relatives(PL/Cnaan) & I will be with U’

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1. Fr 20 yrs—Jcb's been living in NE

Mespo(Haran)w/uncle Laban-**MAP**

2. **Rsn:** he schemed agst bro Esau &

stole his blessing-**Esau to kill hm**

C. Gn 32:3-“ Then Jcb sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau.

D. V. 6-“The messengers returned to Jcb, saying, ‘We came to yur brthr Esau, & he is coming to meet U accompanied by 400(armed) men

E. V. 7-“Thn Jcb was greatly afraid.”

F. V. 9-“So Jcb prayed & said, “O Gd of my fthr Abr, & Gd of my fthr Isac, who told me to return to my country & my relatives, & U would bless me.””

1. V. 11-“Deliver me, I pray, frm the hand of my brother Esau, fr I am afraid he will come & attack me, & the mothers with their c'ren”

2. V 12-“Bec U said, ‘I will surely do good to U, & make yur descendnts like the sand of the sea which is

too great to be counted.”

**[OK—SO FAR....SO GOOD]**

G. But in order to resolve this rift betw himself & his brother Esau...wht did Jacob need to do next?

H. Well--**B's/Gd's way**=fr Jcb to(1)humble himself bfre Esau, & (2) own his sin & (3)confess his sin &(4) sincerely ask Esau to forgive him---**RIGHT??**

1. But Jcb didn't want to do this!

2. Bec our flesh nvr wants to do this

3. Bc it's hmiliating to our flshly pride

3. So instead, Jcb adopts a diff plan

4. One tht his hn pride cld live with

J.**NAMELY**: Jcb tries to try & **bribe Esau**

1. V. 13-“So...frm the possessions he had with him, he selected a present fr his brother Esau.”

2. V.14-“200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 yng lambs,20 rams, 30 milking camels & their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female & 10 male donkeys”—**HUGE BRIBE**

3. Jcb divided this “**bribe**” into 3 prts

\*Telling the leaders of each part

\*V. 17-“When my brother Esau meets U & says, ‘To whom do U, & all these animals in front of U belong?’, then U shall say, ‘They belong your servant Jacob, & they are a **present** sent by him to my lord Esau.’”

4.V. 20-“For Jacob thought, ‘I will pacify him with these gifts so that, later, when I see him, he will receive me favorably

#### H. **SUMMARIZE:**

1. As night falls upon Jacob...
2. Esau—who as far as Jacob knows is still out to kill him--is coming to meet him with **400 armed men**
3. Refusing to use *Gd's method* to fix this situation... Jacob comes up with his **own way** that *preserves* his pride
4. But he never hears back from Esau
5. J is scared/desperate/at end of self

#### **[NOW LOOK WHAT HAPPENS]**

J. V. 24-“So Jacob was left alone, & a man

wrestled with him till daybreak”

K. V. 25-“Whn the man saw tht he cld not overpower Jacob, he touched the socket of Jcb’s hip so tht his hip was wrenched out of joint.”

L.V 29-“Jcb said, ‘Plse tell me yur name.’ & he said, Why do U ask my name?’  
***Thn the man blessed Jcb there.***”

M. V. 30-“So Jcb called the place ‘Peniel’ [**HEB: “the face of Gd”**], ‘Bec,’ Jcb said, ‘I saw Gd face to face, & yct my life was spared.’”

N.NOW-let’s figure out wht’s goin on here

1.The “**man**” Jcb wrestled wth all nite was [WHO?] **GD** (B says V. 30)

\*We call this a “theophany”

\*IE, Gd appearing in **hmn form**

\*Just as He did to Abr in Gen 18

2.The “**wrestling match**”...was an outward symbol of wht was hppning in hppning ***inside*** of Jcb!

3.**Subject** of the **wrestling match**= who was gna be Lrd of Jcb’s life  
\*Was Jcb gonna obey Gd & go

humble slf bfre his brthr

\*& trust Gd to tke care of him

4. **OR**--was Jcb going to keep on  
trying to do things his way

\*In the energy of the flesh

\*Conniving/scheming/manipulatng

5. **B** says it was a "**Herculean battle**"

\*All nite Gd tried to subdue Jcb's  
stubborn human will

\*While all night Jcb's stubborn  
hmn will fought back

6. Even as dawn began to break, the  
contest had still not been settled

7. So Gd dislocated Jcb's thigh, so tht  
he had no choice but to capitulate

8. **B** says: "Thn Gd blesed Jcb there

O. Interesting: This is the 1st time the **B**  
ever says tht God "blessed" Jacob

1. Before this--God has protected Jcb  
provided fr J/even prospered Jb

2. **Gd** had evn made **Jcb** promises

3. But only now(**B** says)is Gd able to  
"bless" Jcb unhindered/unresrvdly

4. Bec[**DON'T MISS**]only now--has Jcb

surrenderd his will to Gd's will

5. Not jst fr this sit but fr rest of his life

P. Gn 33:1-“In the AM, Jcb looked up & there was Esau, coming w/his 400 men

Q. V. 3-“So Jcb went out & bowed dwn to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.”

1. Frm archae'gy—we knw tht this was a common way to express hmility contrition/sorrow twds anthr prn

2. So here Jcb is--doing it Gd's way  
\*No schemes/chicanery/manip'n  
\*& smply trustng Gd fr the results

3. V. 4-“But Esau ran to meet him & embraced him & threw his arms arnd his neck & kissed him.”

## SO WHAT?

SAY:AsF, dn't see wht this hasta do w/me

\*"I've nvr had a wrestling match w /Gd

A: “Sure, U have!” “We ALL have”

\*In fct, many of us walkd in here tdy

\*In mddle of a wrestling match w /Gd

A.Gd's been asking U to forgive smeone

1. & U've been “wrestling with Him”

2. & saying “But I don’t feel like it”
- B. Gd’s been asking U to humble yuself  
 & go ask someone to forgive YOU  
 1. & U’ve been “wrestling with Him”  
 2. & saying: “But I don’t want to!”
- C. Gd’s been asking U to knock off the  
sexual activity betw U &  
 boy/grlfrnd  
 1. & U’ve been “wrestling with Him”  
 2. & saying: “Why do I have to?”
- D. Gd’s hasn’t provided U with a spouse  
 1. & U’ve been “wrestling with Him”  
 2. & saying: “This isn’t fair”
- E. Gd’s hasn’t given U a child...or He’s  
 given U onc with extra-special needs  
 1. & U’ve been “wrestling with Him”  
 2. & saying: “Why me?”
- F. Gd didn’t give U tht promotion/honor  
residency spot/house U wanted/deal  
U’ve been working on/college set on  
 1. & U’ve been “wrestling with Him”  
 2. & saying: “Lrd, why not??”
- G. LISTEN: Jcb “WON” Gd’s blessing BY  
“CAPITULATING” to Gd’s lordship



H. & as F's--tht's exactly how we do it!  
ILLT: Listen—I jst wrestled w /Gd recently  
\*Been askd to do something by Coop  
\*It was for the good of MBC  
\*I knew it was right thng to do bib'ly  
\*But my flshly pride didn't wnta do it  
\*So Lrd & I went into “ring” tgther  
SAY: “Lon--how that turn out for ya?”  
A: “I LOST! I CAPITULATED! I DID IT”  
\*But it's OK THAT I LOST  
\*Bec 45 YRS AGO--I dedicated my life  
to lordship of Chst—WHICH MNS  
\*Tht I agreed to lose evry wrstlg match  
between me & the Lord  
SAY: “Lon, if U were really sp'l--U wldn't  
evn hve “w' matches” w /Gd anymore  
A: “Fine--if U're so spiritual--thn U come  
up here & preach!  
\*I'm just telling U tht--as sinner—I do  
still hve “wrestling matches” w /Gd  
\*It's just tht I've already agreed...to  
LOSE... them ALL!!  
\***WHY?** Bec I decided 45 yrs ago—tht  
I want Gd's blessing more...than I

want my way/my will/my plans

## CONCLUSION

>>>>Hudson Taylor: “Christ is either **Lrd**  
**OF all**, or He is not **Lord AT all.**”

>If U came in here tdy “wrestling w /Gd”

\*I wnta beg U-as yur pstr—who loves U

\*To capitulate—to say “uncle”—to

“agree to obey Hm & do it His way

\*To LOSE yur will to His will...

way/way... plans/plans...

≥& trust Him whtevr the results may be

>>Not just in the area U’re wrestling abt

>>>But fully—100%--without reservation