

Ambassadors Sunday School Class

Genesis 32 - Part 1

1/30/22

We have been tracing of God's plan of redemption, which arose out of God's relationship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. By looking at the patriarchs' lives, we see how much they are like us and how easily we relate to them, both in triumphs and failures.

- 1) Vs. 1-2 Jacob was first met by an angelic host and he named the place “double camp.”
- 2) Vs. 3-5 Servants were sent south to find Esau and tell him that
 - a) Jacob was coming and that
 - b) he was now self-sufficient, and
 - c) to offer a gift of appeasement prior to their meeting.
- 3) Vs. 6-8 The servants soon returned with news that Esau was already on his way with an army of 400 men.
 - a) Jacob, badly frightened by the news,
 - b) divides his host into two groups,
- 4) Vs. 9-12 Since he is completely unaware of what Esau might do, he surrenders his life again into the hands of the God of Bethel who had spoken with him 20 years before.
 - a) Jacob prayed for deliverance,
 - b) God’s own commands and covenant promise (v. 12; see 28: 13– 15),
 - c) acknowledging his own anxiety, and
 - d) confessing his own unworthiness before the Lord.
- 5) Vs. 13-23 Jacob assembled a fabulous gift of livestock to give to Esau.
 - a) The two hosts of Jacob and
 - b) his immediate family were sent on their way.
 - c) He remained alone in the dark of the night
- 6) V. 24 There, in the pitch black of the river valley, God wrestled with him all night.

- 7) Vs.25-32 This unique, nightlong wrestling match ends with
- a) Jacob having a change of name,
 - b) the place having a new name assigned to it and
 - c) Jacob emerging with a limp

REFLECTIONS¹

READER! I charge you not to close your review of this lovely chapter, which under God's teachings hath refreshed the minds of thousands, and will continue so to do until time shall be no more, without first gathering to yourself some of the many sweet things it speaks of to the people of God. You see, in the Patriarch's instance, how those unto whom angels minister, and even unto whom Jesus himself is revealed, may, and will, be exercised with many sharp and trying dispensations. Are *you* thus exercised in the spiritual warfare? Do *you* know what it is to have the ministry of angels meeting you in the way to *Canaan*? Do the seed of *Esau* come forth, to obstruct your path? And are you thereby constrained to seek aid from God? What nights of wrestlings in prayer have you counted? What days of sunshine have broken in upon your soul, to manifest divine communions? Can you call to mind the *brook*, the place, the time, when you have sent away the best and tenderest of all earthly endearments, that you might be left alone to enjoy the visits of God your Saviour.

Let these and the like questions arise in your minds, from the perusal of this chapter.

And may the same gracious Covenant God and Saviour, (for he is *the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever*;) grant both to you and to me, that in our going home to our Father's house, like the Patriarch, Jesus's host may meet us, and give us comfort: nay, may Jesus himself be there, in every step of the way; that Jordan's waves, and the valley of the shadow of death, that lie between, may not affright: for when he is near, his rod and staff shall comfort. So will *goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life, till we come to dwell in the house of our God for ever*.

¹ Hawker, R. (2013). *Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: Genesis–Numbers* (Vol. 1, pp. 139–145). Logos Bible Software.