

JACOB RETURNS TO ESAU TO FACE HIS FEAR

I. JACOB RETURNS FROM HARAN

- A. Jacob spent years away from home after taking Esau's blessing and going to Haran to find a wife.
- B. God now told Jacob to return:

Genesis 32:9-10

(9) And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

(10) I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

- C. Jacob is coming to meet Esau with 400 men. He prepares a present for Esau:
 - 1. 200 she goats
 - 2. 20 he goats
 - 3. 20 rams
 - 4. 30 camels and colts
 - 5. 40 male camels
 - 6. 10 bulls
 - 7. 20 donkeys, male and female
- D. The bands of people split up and went before Jacob in four different groups. The gifts would be used to bring favor and room with Esau.
- E. The groups who went ahead were to tell Esau "Thy servant Jacob is behind these gifts."

II. THE BROOK OF JABBOK

- A. Jacob went to cross over the brook of Jabbok, off the east side of the river Jordan.
- B. He leaves his family on the other side of the brook.
- C. Jabbok in Hebrew means "The place of emptying out."
- D. Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord.

Genesis 32:24-28

(24) And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. (25) And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. (26) And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

(27) And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. (28) And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

1. Wrestled for his family
2. Wrestled for his life
3. Wrestled for his relationship with Esau
4. Refused to give up until he is blessed
5. His name was changed to Israel – Prince with God
6. He wrestled over life and death issues

III. MEETING WITH ESAU

Genesis 33:3-4

(3) And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

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

- A. He bowed to Esau 7 times.
- B. He had divided his family in meeting Esau
- C. Esau ran to meet him, kissed him, and wept.
- D. Esau told Jacob to come home with him but Jacob refused to go to Edom.

IV. JACOB SETTLES IN SHECHEM

- A. Buys land for 100 pieces of silver, 3,200 dollars.
- B. Today Joseph and his sons are buried here in Israel.

V. RESULTS OF JACOB WRESTLING WITH GOD

Genesis 33:20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.

- A. He erected an altar and called it Eleohe-Israel.
- B. The name means “God is the God of Israel.”