

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 31 & 32

7/29/30/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

Review:

After working 14 years for two wives and 6 more years tending Laban's flock taking the spotted and speckled born to Laban's flock, God really blessed – (**Gen 30:43**) *Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.*

Genesis Chapter 31 – Jacob Flees From Laban - (vs. 1-21); Laban Pursues Jacob – (vs. 22-42); Laban's Covenant with Jacob – (vs. 43-55)!

Genesis Chapter 32 – Esau Comes to Meet Jacob - (vs. 1-21); Wrestling With God – (vs. 22-32)!

Jacob Flees from Laban

Gen 31:1 Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth."

- The sons of Laban began to be jealous of the wealth that Jacob had. They were implying of laying claim to it themselves. This was our father's and it really is ours," and they began to be very jealous concerning the blessing that Jacob had and the wealth that he had acquired.

Gen 31:2 And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before.

- Laban had come to understand that God had blessed him because of Jacob's service. Laban was a very wealthy man himself. He had become extremely wealthy through the diligence of Jacob, and now to see Jacob also wealthy began to bother Laban. Now that Jacob is also becoming wealthy, Laban's isn't looking at him with such a pleasant look any more. He's beginning to scowl.

Gen 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."

- Whenever God prepares us for a move, it disrupts our patterns, our routines. It's not as pleasant a circumstance as I was once living in. So, God begins to create situations that make me quite uncomfortable where I am and I begin to think about moving again.
- It could be that Jacob felt very comfortable and settled down in Padan Aram, but God wants him now to go back to his land. The Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family. I will be with you."
- Now here is the word of God and the promise of God to Jacob. Usually God really doesn't launch us out in any venture without first giving us His word. That once we have the word of God, we then step forth in faith, not on our feelings, but faith in the word. When we step out in faith that we have the word of God to step out upon.

Gen 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock,

- Jacob is now going to let them in on the feelings that he has in his heart. Separating is not going to be an easy thing. Laban is going to be reluctant to let them go. So he sends and he brings his wives out to them and he shares with them the things that are on his heart.

Gen 31:5 and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.

Gen 31:6 And you know that with all my might I have served your father.

Gen 31:7 Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.

Gen 31:8 If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked.

Gen 31:9 So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

- He acknowledges it was God who had brought to him the riches that he now possessed. So God has taken away the livestock of your father. Jacob doesn't attribute it to his clever engineering of genetic codes or whatever.

Gen 31:10 "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.

- God revealed to Jacob in this dream that, even though the cattle all seemed to be of the dominantly solid colors, the rams actually mating, were caused by God to produce an abnormal proportion of streaked, speckled and gray-spotted offspring to augment Jacob's flock. God thus provisionally honored Jacob's faith and punished Laban's strong desire for possessions.

Gen 31:11 Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'

Gen 31:12 And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

Gen 31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "

- The God of Bethel reminds Jacob of the place of his first encounter with God--Bethel. God is saying, "I am the God of Bethel. I am the God where you first had an encounter with Me. There you made a vow to Me." "Lord, indeed, if You will be with me and if You will take care of me and bring me back safely into the land, then I will give to You a tenth of all that I have." Jacob made this vow twenty years earlier. God is now reminding him. Now arise, get out of this land, return to the land.

Gen 31:14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house?"

- Now he didn't know if his wives, Rachel, and Leah, wanted to go or not. Maybe they are still tied to their dad. So he is telling them that your dad has been deceptive to me. He has changed my wages ten times. I've worked hard for him, but God has blessed me. So Rachel and Leah answered:

Gen 31:15 Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money.

- **The dowry that was given was, in a sense, alimony in advance.** Because women had no rights of divorce, but they could be divorced at any time by their husbands for any cause. In order then to protect women from this kind of a situation, a dowry would be arranged in advance by the parents. The dowry was to become a trust that the father was to watch over. He was to take care of that trust so that at any time during the marriage, if the husband kicked her out, she was already financially secure.
- **Jacob had served seven years each for each of the daughters.** And those seven years were years of great prosperity for Laban. He was supposed to take the prosperity that Jacob had made for him in laboring for the daughters. The daughters said, He didn't really set up any trust funds for us.

Gen 31:16 For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children's; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it."

- **These riches....are really ours, and our children's.** They really belong to us anyhow. This is what he should have been saving for us. They belong to us and our children.
- **Whatever God has said to you, do it!** That is really great instruction at any time, isn't it? Whatever God has said to you, do it! You don't have to be reluctant when God speaks to you!

Gen 31:17 Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels.

Gen 31:18 And he carried away all his livestock and all his possessions which he had gained, his acquired livestock which he had gained in Padan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

Gen 31:19 Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols (Teraphim - religious idols with some ownership rights) that were her father's.

Gen 31:20 And Jacob stole away, unknown to Laban the Syrian, in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee.

Gen 31:21 So he fled with all that he had. He arose and crossed the river, and headed toward the mountains of Gilead.

Gen 31:22 And Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled.

Gen 31:23 Then he took his brethren with him and pursued him for seven days' journey, and he overtook him in the mountains of Gilead.

- **With the driving of the herds, it was impossible to cover much territory,** maybe twenty miles a day. They were already some three days' journey away at the southwestern portion of that land, so they probably had a seventy-to-eighty-mile head start. It was three more days before Laban even heard that they had fled. So it must have taken Laban seven days or so to catch up with Jacob. He didn't catch him until Jacob had come to the beginning of the mountains of Gilead.

Gen 31:24 But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."

- **God came at night just the day before Laban caught up with Jacob,** warning him to be careful not to speak either good or bad. It was a warning of God for Laban to just leave Jacob alone! Laban really had the fear of God put in his heart by this experience.

Gen 31:25 So Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountains, and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mountains of Gilead.

Gen 31:26 And Laban said to Jacob: "What have you done, that you have stolen away unknown to me, and carried away my daughters like captives taken with the sword?"

Gen 31:27 Why did you flee away secretly, and steal away from me, and not tell me; for I might have sent you away with joy and songs, with timbrel and harp?

- **We could have had a big going away party.** Why did you slip away? They know this is just a bunch of hypocrisy. He was angry that Jacob put it over on him. But God had warned him to be nice and by the time he catches up he's sort of making up this kind of a story. "

Gen 31:28 And you did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters. Now you have done foolishly in so doing.

- **You didn't even allow me to kiss my grandkids. We can understand Laban's there. Underneath he is seething. He is angry. He is really upset about this whole thing, but he is trying to be cool on the outside, pretending he didn't have a chance to throw a party for them.**

Gen 31:29 It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.'

- **Now we're beginning to get the truth here. You know I could really do you in and I would, but God spoke to me last night. It's in my power.**

Gen 31:30 And now you have surely gone because you greatly long for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

- **It is rather amusing that a man has gods that can be stolen--amusing and tragic! We are told that Rachel took these little idol-gods. They're called the teraphim, and were used for purposes of divination. They were thought to be oracles. They thought that God spoke to them through these teraphim idols, often using them for guidance. They were also used to show ownership in property.**

Gen 31:31 Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I said, 'Perhaps you would take your daughters from me by force.'

- **Why did you slip away quietly? Jacob is answering, "Because I was afraid!"**

Gen 31:32 With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live. In the presence of our brethren, identify what I have of yours and take it with you." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

- **Not knowing that Rachel had ripped them off, Jacob said, *With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live.* It was a capital offense to steal gods under the Hammurabi Code. Jacob said, "Search. Whoever you find your gods with, you can have their life. *Do not let live.*"**
- ***In the presence of our brethren, identify what I have of yours and take it with you!* Now look around, see what I have that belongs to you. Identify it and let them all be witnesses that it is yours! Jacob knew that he had not taken anything that belonged to Laban.**

Gen 31:33 And Laban went into Jacob's tent, into Leah's tent, and into the two maids' tents, but he did not find them. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.

Gen 31:34 Now Rachel had taken the household idols, put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. And Laban searched all about the tent but did not find them.

Gen 31:35 And she said to her father, "Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is with me." And he searched but did not find the household idols.

- **The whole time, Jacob started seething with anger. Here is Laban if falsely accusing me of stealing. As he going through making a mess looking for these idols in tent after tent.**

Gen 31:36 Then Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban, and Jacob answered and said to Laban: "What is my trespass? What is my sin, that you have so hotly pursued me?"

- **And he really lets go on him now.**

Gen 31:37 Although you have searched all my things, what part of your household things have you found? Set it here before my brethren and your brethren, that they may judge between us both!

Gen 31:38 These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock.

Gen 31:39 That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

- **That was the prerogative of a shepherd. They could eat for their own benefit of the flocks. But Jacob said, "I didn't do that."**
- ***That which was torn by beasts I did not bring it to you. The other common practice was when an animal was torn by a wild beast, the shepherd would exonerate himself by bringing in the torn carcass. Jacob said, "I didn't bring the carcasses to you. You made me pay for it.***

Gen 31:40 There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes.

- **I was hot! Under the hot sun, thirsty. Twenty years of this kind of labor.**

Gen 31:41 Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

Gen 31:42 Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac (The God who caused Isaac to reverence Him), had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night."

- **Jacob is upset. He's angry. He knows good and well that if God had not intervened**, even at this point, Laban would have by force ripped off everything that he had and he would have sent him back home empty. It really upset him. So he gives vent to these feelings.

Gen 31:43 *And Laban answered and said to Jacob, "These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and this flock is my flock; all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?"*

- *These daughters are my daughters. No, but he sold them. These children are my children, this flock is my flock. Not so! Jacob labored and served for all of these!*

Gen 31:44 *Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me."*

Gen 31:45 *So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.*

Gen 31:46 *Then Jacob said to his brethren, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there on the heap.*

Gen 31:47 *Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.*

- **Laban had a wrong attitude towards the whole thing, but he says, Let us make a covenant, you, and I; and let it be a witness between you and me. So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a pillar...And Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, which in Aramaic means "a heap of witness."**
- **Jacob called it in Hebrew, Galeed, which is easier for us to speak in Hebrew than Aramaic.**

Gen 31:48 *And Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me this day." Therefore its name was called Galeed,*

Gen 31:49 *also Mizpah (watchtower), because he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another."*

- **There are people today who have taken Mizpah as a pleasant benediction.** In context, it is not a pleasant parting at all, but really a division of one party from another! The idea is the Lord watching over you, as watching over a thief.

Gen 31:50 *If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us—see, God is witness between you and me!"*

- **God watch over you and keep you from mistreating my daughters and all of this. So, Mizpah.**

Gen 31:51 *Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.*

Gen 31:52 *This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.*

- **This is the mark. You are not to come this way. I won't go that way. I will not pass over, we won't pass beyond this heap.**

Gen 31:53 *The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.*

Gen 31:54 *Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his brethren to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain.*

Gen 31:55 *And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.*

- **It had been a day of high pressure!** Laban comes in and accuses Jacob of stealing his gods and fleeing. Jacob then gets angry and blows his stack at Laban. This had, no doubt, been eating on him all the years. Jacob had taken it while it was going on. Now the opportunity came and Jacob is just venting the whole thing, feeling the tenseness and pressure.
- **In the morning Laban departs and goes back.** I'm sure with Jacob, there is just a sigh of relief. "Well, that is over. And here is this heap of stones and he's not to cross over it to do us harm."

Chapter 32 - Jacob Fears Esau

Gen 32:1 *So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.*

- **It is interesting how that after the tension and after the battle, the angels of God are there to meet and minister to him.** Like in Gethsemane, the angels of the Lord came to minister to Him.

Gen 32:2 *When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.*

- **Mahanaim – two hosts. This is God's camp!** By this act Jacob was testifying that he was being guarded not only by his own small host, but also by God's infinitely more numerous and powerful host!

Gen 32:3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

Gen 32:4 And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now.

Gen 32:5 I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight." ' ' "

- **Jacob is sending them on to Esau to let him know I am coming back and I really don't need anything.** I'm not coming back to get my inheritance. I'm a wealthy man. I'm just coming back to be home and all! I have plenty! I desire a peaceful greeting, and to find favor in your sight!

Gen 32:6 Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

- **It doesn't sound like the kind of welcoming party that Jacob is looking forward to.** Esau, probably hearing that Jacob was coming back, rounded up these fellows to meet him. Esau may have been fearful as Jacob, having not heard from him in twenty years, remembering God's prophecy.
- **So Jacob is in a most difficult situation!** There is the pile of stones behind him. He can't go back that way. He's not to pass over that! Esau is in front of him with four hundred men!

Gen 32:7 So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies.

- **So Jacob was greatly afraid! He realized the implication and he divided the people, flocks, and herds into two companies.** So rather than one large group, they are now divided into two groups.

Gen 32:8 And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."

- **He put the one in front of him and if Esau comes and attacks them, then we'll do our best to escape.** We'll start to flee. With the other company holding them back, we have the chance to flee!

Gen 32:9 Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you.

- **Jacob prays!** Now Jacob does what any wise person would do in these kind of circumstances! When you have no place to turn, you turn to God!
- **God of my father Abraham, the God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, Return to your country, and to your family, and I will deal well with you.** LORD, that is what You said. Do you remember? It doesn't look too good! LORD, You said to me, "Return and I will deal well with you!"
- **What a wonderful address to Jacob's prayer! Notice how he is standing on the promises of God! May this be a real example to us!**

Gen 32:10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

- **Look at Jacob's humility!** Jacob is really reminded of the purpose of his flight, fleeing the wrath from Esau with the deception of Isaac. When he had fled he didn't take anything with him, but his walking stick! Soon he will be coming to the Jordan River again. All I had was this staff.
- **Now, LORD, You have been so good to me! I'm not worthy of it.** I don't deserve it. I'm not worthy of the least of Your mercies! But, oh God, You have been so good! He was just really overwhelmed with the goodness and the grace of God! **O LORD! I don't deserve it. I'm not worthy! How wonderfully refreshing to note Jacob's humility! That is so important! LORD, help me with my lack of humility!**

Gen 32:11 Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

- **Deliver me LORD! I am afraid! I love the honesty with which Jacob communicates with God!** When we come to God we should be totally honest, not endeavoring to con God with our prayers, making ourselves look better than we really are! God knows! God can deal with you when you are honest with Him. He can deal with the issues, if you will be honest with God!
- **If you're not honest with God, God has difficulty dealing with you and with the issues of your life.** If you are trying to make yourself look good and kind, then God has difficulty working with you. So Jacob is straightforward. Oh God, I'm afraid! I fear my brother. I'm really afraid!
- **LORD help me with my lack of honesty! In prayer as well as in all things!**

Gen 32:12 For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

- ***For you said! Jacob is wonderfully standing on the promises of God!*** Again, holding God at His word. "Now, Lord, this is what You said."
- ***I will surely treat you well, I will make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude!*** That is what You said! But, if he kills me how can that be? If he kills my children, how can that happen? You said, Lord!
- ***I love to pray when I can say, "But, God, You said."*** Praying on the basis of the promise of God. Praying on the basis of the word of God! When we pray we should hold God to His word, and what it does to affect me. It helps me tremendously to realize God has promised! When I can come to God with the promises of His word, oh how strengthened I am! So he is reminding God of the promises which helps his faith, helping him in this situation!
- ***How often in my prayers, am I standing, do I stand, on the promises of God?***

Gen 32:13 So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother:

- ***Now after this prayer where he lays out the whole situation to God, recognizing I'm afraid.*** I don't have the manpower to really battle with him and four hundred men! *LORD*, I'm afraid he's going to come and kill us all! *LORD*, remember You said that You'd do well by us! You said, *LORD*, that You were going to multiply my seed like the sand and all.
- ***And having prayed, then what does he do? He starts to scheme!*** God help us! We are so much like Jacob. We pray and say, "Now, God, I'm putting it all in Your hands," and then we start to scheme. It was a strength of Jacob, but it became a tremendous weakness, too often true in our lives!
- ***Our greatest natural strengths become spiritual barriers*** to our spiritual development. The fact that he was able by his cleverness and by his cunning to get by and to do so many things! By his cleverness he took advantage of his brother Esau and bought the birthright, receiving the blessing. By his cleverness he outwitted Laban and got the strong herds (really it was all God!). Now he's in a tight place. He prays, puts it in the hand of God, and then immediately reverts back to his old cunning, scheming ways. Now, by his cleverness he going to seek to appease his brother Esau.
- ***How long after my turning my problems and burdens, giving them to the LORD, do I take them back, without hearing from the LORD of what I should do? Is there improvement going on this my life? Again, oh LORD, help!***

Gen 32:14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

- Notice the size and extent of Jacob's gift, This will give you an idea of the size of the herds that this guy had. For these are just a present that he is preparing for Esau.

Gen 32:15 thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.

Gen 32:16 Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves."

Gen 32:17 And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?'

Gen 32:18 then you shall say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.' "

Gen 32:19 So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;

Gen 32:20 and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

- ***Jacob knows that he is in a life-threatening situation.*** He figures to appease his brother with these gifts, and to space them out strategically. Jacob is hoping to wear Esau down.
- ***Jacob's cleverness. Scheming his way out of the predicament that he had already turned over to God*** and asked God for help. God is wanting to work in Jacob's life. He has chosen Jacob to be one of the patriarchs, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. That God has chosen that the Messiah would come one day from one of the tribes of Jacob.
- ***God is wanting to work in Jacob's life, choosing him*** to be one of the patriarchs, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, from which the Messiah would come! God has chosen this man for special privileges, but he is still not useable! He is not fully surrendered to God. God can't really do all He desires to do for you until your life is fully surrendered to Him!
- ***As long as you can get by with your wit, your scheming, your cunning and your devices, God is apt to let you go, but God will put the squeeze on you.*** He put the squeeze on Jacob when Laban

came. Now again that Esau is coming! Jacob prays! He is brought to his knees. But now he turns right back around, devising and scheming again. He hasn't yet fully surrendered his life and situations of his life to God. Thus, God will not yet do the full work He is desiring to do through this man! It takes complete surrender, and so God has to deal further with him.

- **How completely surrendered am I to God?**

Gen 32:21 So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.

Jacob Wrestles with God

Gen 32:22 And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.

Gen 32:23 He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.

- **Jacob wanted to get the wives and kids safely over the brook Jabbok.** He must have wanted to get away from the noise, staying on the north side where it is quiet. He needed a good night sleep, because tomorrow is going to be one tough day. He must have thought that he needed all the sleep and rest possible so he could be sharp and on his toes.

Gen 32:24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

- **Of all of the things you don't need the night before a major confrontation is a wrestling match** all night long! When you're wanting to be alert, sharp and at your best, to be worn down by a wrestling match.
- **Many times I have wrestled with God over a situation**, seemingly all night long. God is dealing with me on issues and I'm wrestling with Him. I don't want to completely surrender.
- **God was wrestling with Jacob in order to bring him to the place of surrender so that God can now begin to do all that He wants to do through this man**, but Jacob is a tough nut! He won't give up. He won't cry "uncle." He keeps wrestling.

Gen 32:25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

- **The Lord could have done this earlier on in the battle. He was giving Jacob a chance to give up.** But Jacob is tenacious. He is stubborn. He won't give up. So finally, as the day begins to break, the Lord touches the socket of his hip, pushes the thing out of socket so that now he is in pain. Now he is crippled!

Gen 32:26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

- **It is often difficult to understand the full truth of the story by reading it, the words on a page**, which do not give you tonal inflections. Because we don't hear the tonal inflections, that oftentimes we misinterpret scriptures.
- **Fortunately Hosea, when he makes commentary on this passage, gives to us the tone of voice.** (*Hos 12:4-5*) Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He (Jacob) found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us—[5] That is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.
- **Hosea tells us that he wept and he made supplication to Him.** Now Jacob is not demanding from a place of strength, but he was crying out. He was praying from a place of weakness and crying. He was weeping. He was defeated. If everything else fails, I'm going to run! There is no way he can run. There is no place to go. Now God has brought him to the place of total surrender as he weeps, as he prays now. He is pleading for his life!
- **It is interesting when Jacob asks for a blessing the Lord responds by asking Jacob his name.**

Gen 32:27 So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

- **My name is Heel catcher, Supplanter. One who takes another by catching his heel.** I've gotten by with my wits, by my cunning! I'm capable of overcoming by catching others heels. But now, the blessing from our gracious LORD!

Gen 32:28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

- **God changes his name! What a blessing! Ruled by God!** That's the blessing! You will no longer be a self-sufficient, a self-made man, but you will be a man who is ruled by God!
- **What a blessing when my life is ruled by God. That is exactly what Jacob needed! That blessing came when he surrendered to God!** When his hip was put out of joint, God crippled him. God had to cripple him in order to crown him! God didn't want to cripple him. The Lord wrestled all

night hoping that Jacob would surrender. He wouldn't! By his stubbornness he forced God to cripple him. But God so desired to bless and to crown man, that God crippled him in order to crown him!

- **So, Jacob is crippled and is now defeated. He surrenders and he weeps and he prays,** "Bless me. Bless me." The blessing, the change of character. You see the name expressed his character, "Supplanter," which very well expressed the character of this sly and cunning guy, Jacob. That's exactly what he was, but you're going to have a change of character and what a blessing that change of character was!
- **That is exactly what God wants to do for you and for me! The change of character from a carnal man to a spiritual man; from a life governed by your flesh to one governed by the Spirit.** That's God's intention for you. But does God have to cripple you to do it? I hope not! I hope that we won't be so foolish as to wrestle with God until He has to cripple us in order to bring us into total submission to Him. But even so, if God has to use that measure, then as with Paul one day we will say, *(2Co 12:9) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Likely the day came when Israel, no longer Jacob, rejoiced in that hip out of socket, because of the work and power of God, then manifested in his life when he fully surrendered to God.
- **Your name shall be called "governed" or "ruled by God,"** for you have struggled with God, or wrestled with God, and with men, and you have prevailed!
- **Jacob prevailed by weeping and persevering in prayer !** Now some misinterpret this scripture, thinking that Jacob prevailed by his tenacity. "I'm not going to let you go until you bless me," because you see they don't read the tone into the voice. They say oh he prevailed with God because of his tenacity. No, no! He prevailed with God by his surrender, by his weeping and by his prayer!
- **That is the way to prevail with God is with prayer and with tears.** For the Lord is open to the cry of His children. When you cry unto God and your heart is broken and desperate before God, that is the time that you prevail, the prevailing prayer that is often accompanied by tears as we are brought to the end of ourselves and the acknowledgement of our own helplessness and our weakness and our own crippled state. "God, I can't go any further. LORD, please help me." That is the place where God moves in and our lives become blessed and God takes over and begins then to work out all the situations and the circumstances that have us in fear and have us in despair, and God now begins to work. I prevailed with God through prayer and with tears.
- **How often do I prevail with God with prayer and with tears?**

Gen 32:29 Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

- **The Lord just answered with a rhetorical question. He didn't tell him His name.** What difference does it make? He received the blessing.
- **I believe that Jacob actually was wrestling with Jesus Christ.** That this is one of the theophanies of the Old Testament, the appearances of Jesus in the Old Testament times, known and called a theophany. An appearance of God in the form of man. So where in the Old Testament they say, "I have seen God," they have seen God in the form and in the person of Jesus Christ.

Gen 32:30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

Gen 32:31 Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

- **I'm still alive. I have seen God face to face and I'm still alive.** Just as he passed over Penuel (different spelling) *the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.* So, now Jacob leaves this place where he had seen God and wrestled with God. As he crosses over Jabbok towards his family, the wives, and the children, he is limping! His hip is out of joint! He's been crippled.
- **I can hear Rachel and Leah, as they run to meet him, and they look with concern at his struggle** as he is limping. They say, "Jacob, Jacob, what happened? What is the matter?" And he said, "Don't call me Jacob, call me Israel! I am a new man! I have met God! I've surrendered to Him! I'm a different man! Call me "governed by God!" **Does that describe you?**

Gen 32:32 Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

- **So God actually shriveled the muscle there causing the hip to dislocate,** indicating that the injury was permanent. The crippling was permanent. But yet, what it brought to him, the surrender to God!
- **Now, a peek ahead, (Gen 33:4) But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. When this confrontation with Esau finally came to him, Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him,** falling on his neck, kissing him; and they wept. I don't think that

that would have been the end of the story had he not surrendered to God, but having surrendered, God then worked out the details, the wrath in his brother's heart and the whole thing. So by the time the confrontation came, there was no confrontation, only embraces of love and weeping together.

- Oh, how God can change our situation if we'll only surrender to Him!

SUMMARY

Gen 32:9 Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':

- **What a wonderful address to Jacob's prayer! Notice how he is standing on the promises of God! May this be a real example to us!**

Gen 32:10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown.

- **How wonderfully refreshing to note Jacob's humility! That is so important! LORD, help me with my lack of humility!**

Gen 32:11 Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

- **Be honest! LORD help me with my lack of honesty! In prayer as well as in all things!**

Gen 32:12 For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand.

- **How often in my prayers, am I standing, do I stand on the promises of God?**

Gen 32:13 So he lodged there that same night, and took.....a present for Esau his brother:

- **How long after my turning my problems and burdens, giving them to the LORD, do I take them back, without hearing from the LORD of what I should do? Is there improvement going on this my life? Again, oh LORD, help!**

Gen 32:20 and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he said, I will appease him.

- **How completely surrendered am I to God?**

Gen 32:28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

- **How often do I persevere and prevail with God with prayer and with tears?**

CLOSING SONG

- (Gen 32:9) Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you': Jacob is standing on the promises of God!
- (Gen 32:10a) I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant. Note Jacob's humility!
- (Gen 32:28) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." Jacob has fully surrendered!

STANDING ON THE PROMISES -- HUMBLE THYSELF – I SURRENDER ALL!!

Marantha (4:20) Standing on the promises of Christ the King, through eternal ages let His praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

*Humble Thyself In the Sight of the Lord; Humble Thyself In the Sight of the Lord;
And He shall Lift You Up, Higher and Higher And He shall Lift You Up
Up into Heaven And He shall Lift You Up; And He shall Lift You Up, Higher and Higher
And He shall Lift You Up, Up into Heaven And He shall Lift You Up
And He shall Lift You Up (4X)*

All to Jesus I surrender; all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.

Refrain -I surrender all, I surrender all, all to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender now I feel the sacred flame O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory, to His name (Ref)

CLOSING PRAYER - NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 33 & 34!