

Jacob—Genesis 32-33

Jacob Named Israel

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 32:2...** MAHANAIM—“The two hosts, if read by the points, the angels forming one, and Jacob and his company forming another; or simply hosts or camps in the plural. There was a city built afterwards here, and inhabited by the priests of God, [Jos 21:38](#). For what purpose the angels of God met Jacob, does not appear from the text; probably it was intended to show him that he and his company were under the care of an especial providence, and consequently to confirm his trust and confidence in God” [Adam Clarke].
- 32:3...** THE LAND OF SEIR—“We have both "land of Seir," [Gen 32:3](#); [Gen 36:50](#), and "Mount Seir." [Gen 14:6](#). It is the original name of the mountain range extending along the east side of the valley of Arabah, from the Dead Sea to the Elanitic Gulf. The Horites appear to have been the chief of the aboriginal inhabitants, [Gen 36:20](#), but it was ever, afterward, the possession of the Edomites, the descendants of Esau” [*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*].
- 32:9-12...** “Jacob did two things: (1) He took every possible precaution human wisdom could suggest, dividing the companies, etc. (2) Then he prayed one of the greatest prayers of his life, consisting of 'an invocation ([Gen. 32:10](#)), thanksgiving ([Gen. 32:11](#)), petition ([Gen. 32:12](#)), and appeal to the divine faithfulness ([Gen. 32:12](#)), a classic model of O.T. devotion.' His confession of unworthiness should be included ([Gen. 32:10](#))” [Coffman].
- 32:15...** THIRTY MILCH CAMELS—“The thirty milch camels were particularly valuable, for milch camels among the Arabs constitute a principal part of their riches, the creature being every way so serviceable that the providence of God appears peculiarly kind and wise in providing such a beast for those countries where no other animal could be of equal service. ‘The she-camel gives milk continually, not ceasing till great with young; the milk of which,’ as Pliny has remarked, ‘when mixed with three parts of water, affords the most pleasant and wholesome beverage’” [Adam Clarke].
- 32:28...** ISRAEL—“**Is'rael.** (*the prince that prevails with God*). 1. The name given, [Gen 32:28](#), to Jacob after his wrestling with the angel, [Hos 12:4](#), at Peniel. Gesenius interprets **Israel** as “*soldier of God*”. 2. It became the national name of the twelve tribes collectively. They are so called in [Exo 3:16](#) and afterward. 3. It is used in a narrower sense, excluding Judah, in [1Sa 11:8](#); [2Sa 20:1](#); [1Ki 12:16](#). Thenceforth, it was assumed and accepted as the name of the northern kingdom. 4. After the Babylonian captivity, the returned exiles resumed the name **Israel** as the designation of their nation. The name **Israel** is also used to denote lay-men, as distinguished from priests, Levites and other ministers. [Ezr 6:16](#); [Ezr 9:1](#); [Ezr 10:25](#); [Neh 11:3](#); etc.” [*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*].
- 33:18...** WHEN HE CAME FROM PADANARAM—“from Mesopotamia, from Haran there; Shechem was the first place in the land of Canaan he came to, when he came from thence, and whither he came in the greatest safety, he himself, wives, children, and servants, in good health, without any loss of any of his cattle and substance; and without any ill thing befalling: him all the way thither, being delivered from Laban and Esau, and from every danger, and from every enemy: and to signify this is this clause added, which may seem otherwise superfluous: **and pitched his tent before the city**; the city of Shechem, not in it, but near it” [*John Gill’s Exposition of the Entire Bible*].

II. Chronology.BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.****III. Summary.**

These two chapters tell about Joseph's meeting with his brother, Esau, and his return to Canaan. Jacob was met by a host of angels and Jacob gave a name to that place, Mahanaim, which means "two hosts," or "two camps." This would have reference to the host of the angels and the host of Jacob's processional. Jacob sends out messengers ahead to Esau to find out what they can about Esau's intentions and to try to make it a peaceful meeting. The messengers return saying that Esau is coming to see him with 400 men. With fear, Jacob divides all he has into two camps, hoping to save at least one if Esau attacks. Jacob prays to the Father with great boldness, yet with humility. He sends forth a gift of a total of 550 animals spread out in three portions, with a message that Jacob was behind them. Jacob took his family across the Jabbock and spent the night alone. Here was the place that Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord. Jacob would not let go till he received a blessing. Here his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. Israel divided up his family, putting the two handmaids in the front, then Leah, and last of all Rachel and Joseph. Jacob went to the front to meet Esau. Esau ran to meet his brother, embraced him, fell on his neck, and kissed him, and they wept together. Esau asks about all of the animals and Jacob insists that he take them as a gift. Jacob would have to travel more slowly with all the women and children so he separates from his brother. Esau headed to Seir and Jacob to Succoth and then eventually to Shechem, in the land of Canaan. Here he bought some land and erected an altar to the Lord.

IV. Outline.

1. Angels meet Jacob (Gen 32:1-2).
2. Jacob sends messengers to feel out his brother's intentions (32:3-6).
3. Jacob makes preparations for the possibility of a non-friendly meeting (32:7-8).
4. Jacob prays to God (32:9-12).
5. Jacob prepares a large gift for his brother (32:13-21).
6. Jacob helps his wives and family across the Jabbock and spends the night alone (32:22-24a).
7. Jacob wrestles with the angel of the Lord (32:24b-32).
8. Jacob arranges his family for the meeting with Esau (Gen 33:1-3).
9. Esau runs to meet Jacob and they embrace (33:4).
10. Jacob introduces his family to Esau and insists that he keep the gifts (33:5-11).
11. The two brothers separate as Esau heads back to Seir (33:12-16).
12. Jacob goes first to Succoth and then to Shechem in Canaan (33:17-20).

V. Questions.**True or False**

01. _____ Esau invited Jacob to come live in Edom.
02. _____ Rachel was the first to be introduced to Esau.
03. _____ Jacob gave Esau more cows than camels.
04. _____ Peniel is where Jacob wrestled with the angel.
05. _____ The Bible tells us that the 400 men coming with Esau were armed.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Jacob sent messengers to Esau in: (a) the land of Seir; (b) the country of Edom; (c) a & b.

07. _____ When he separated from Esau, Jacob first stopped at this place: (a) Padanaram; (b) Succoth; (c) Shalem.
08. _____ Jacob refused to let the angel with whom he was wrestling go until: (a) he admitted defeat; (b) blessed him; (c) midnight.
09. _____ The total of the animals Jacob presented to Esau was: (a) 1000; (b) 450; (c) 550.
10. _____ When Jacob approached his brother he bowed himself: (a) three times; (b) seven times; (c) he did not bow.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “And Esau said, I have _____, my _____, keep that thou hast unto thyself.”
12. Jacob’s fear of his brother caused him to divided the people and the flocks and herds and camels into _____.
13. After gathering his wives, womenservants, and sons, Jacob sent them across the ford _____.
14. Jacob told Esau that God had dealt _____ with him.
15. The word halted, as used in chapter 32, means: _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Genesis 31 Questions... [01—True, Gen 31:13; 02—False, Gen 31:41; 03—True, Gen 31:29; 04—False, Gen 31:16; 05—False, Gen 31:35; 06—c, Gen 31:21; 07—a, Gen 31:41; 08—c, Gen 31:2; 09—a, Gen 31:22; 10—a, Gen 31:36; 11—findest, live, Gen 31:32; 12—sacrifice, brethren, tarried, Gen 31:54; 13—taken, away, given, Gen 31:9; 14—Laban, Syrian, night, Gen 31:24; 15—empty, Gen 31:42.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau...** (Gen 32:3). We have to admire the way Jacob immediately deals with a longstanding problem at the very beginning of his return home. It would have been possible for Jacob to slip back into the area and likely he could have avoided his brother for some period of time. However, he realizes that things are not right between himself and his brother and he wants the matter resolved. This practice desperately needs to be followed by spiritual brethren in the church (Mt 5:23-24; 18:15-17).
2. **And Jacob said, O God of my father...** (Gen 32:9ff). Jacob first divided his people and possessions into two groups, thinking if Esau came in anger, part might be saved. Then, he prays to the Lord and presents his needs in a humble and very specific way. Jacob’s example in this matter is worthy of our imitation.
3. **...and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother** (Gen 32:13-21). This large gift (Coffman estimates the value of it to be \$100,000 or more), is an indication of how serious Jacob is about his desire to reconcile with Esau. The tremendously respectful and courteous humble way that he met his brother, likewise.
4. **...I will not let thee go, except thou bless me** (Gen 32:26). The persistence of Jacob is seen here, also his spirituality in desiring the blessing of the Lord.
5. **And Jacob journeyed to Succoth...** (Gen 33:17). Some try to make Jacob’s actions here dishonorable in that he did not follow his brother to Seir. The fact is that no dishonor need be read into this action. There was NO invitation extended by Esau for Jacob to come live with him in Edom. Likely some time after Jacob would have visited him in Edom.

6. **And he erected there an altar...** (Gen 33:20). Here is Jacob following the example of Abraham and Isaac, desiring to worship the Lord.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P D I V I D E D O I T U Y T R A C H E L
 T F R E W Q A S X S W P E D C V F R T H
 T G E B N H Y U J M D K E I O P L K I I
 L U J L M N H Y T E G B F W V F R E D N
 E C D E L B G T R R F S O V Y C D E W D
 A W S X Z O A D Q W D S R X C E V F R E
 H T G B N H N Y U I J R E O I U H Y T R
 A F T E R U E H A W Q A M Z X S W T E M
 E D C V H B G M I T Y H O E M J U I D O
 C D E R R F D E B S G T S Y D J M E R S
 F V U B G N T Y M N N A T N H E S Y E T
 Y O C D A E W A T B U E Z A Q S K M W S
 F X X H C D E E R C R T C G I B I O N U
 R E O Q A Z E X A S B A W K E T R F O V
 B W G T Y M H M N H O N C R N E W Q A L
 T X C V O B E N M Y W E D E C V F R T B
 B G T T Y H N M J U E I V E D W S X O V
 V F N R F V B G T Y D E N H Y U J C N Q
 C A D E R F V B G T S Y H N M W A X Q A
 R X S W E C H I L D R E N C D J E D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Genesis 33:1-4... ¹And **Jacob** lifted up his eyes, and **looked**, and, behold, **Esau came**, and with him **four hundred men**. And he **divided** the **children** unto **Leah**, and unto **Rachel**, and unto the **two handmaids**. ²And he put the handmaids and their children **foremost**, and Leah and her children **after**, and Rachel and Joseph **hindermost**. ³And he passed over before them, and **bowed** himself to the ground **seven times**, until he came near to his brother. ⁴And Esau **ran to meet** him, and **embraced** him, and **fell on his neck**, and **kissed** him: and **they wept**.