

Wrestling With God

Genesis 32:1-32

Introduction

I Jacob Had An Angelic Encounter

- A. He left Laban and went on to Canaan - Gen 31:3; Jn 14:21
- B. He is met by the **angels** of God - Gen 28:12
- C. He declares it to be “The Camp Of God”

II Jacob Prepared To Meet Esau

- A. He sent messengers to Esau - Prov 18:19; Matt 5:23-24
 - 1. He described himself as Esau’s **servant** - 2 Cor 4:5-6
 - 2. He informed him of his **situation**:
 - a. He had been staying with Laban
 - b. He had livestock and servants
 - 3. He communicated his **intentions**
 - a. He hoped to find favor with Esau
- B. He received the messengers report
 - 1. “We went to your brother, Esau”
 - 2. “Esau is coming with **400** men to meet you”
- C. He was in great **fear** and distress - Is 41:10
- D. He prepared for the **worst**
 - 1. He **divided** the people into two groups - Prov 21:31
 - 2. He prayed for God’s **protection**
 - a. He addressed Him as the God of his fathers
 - b. He reminded God of His **calling** - Rom 4:20-21
 - c. He acknowledged his unworthiness - Lk 15:18-19
 - d. He humbly acknowledged God’s blessings - Ps 16:2
 - e. He cried out for deliverance - Ps 142:6
 - f. He reminded God of the **covenant** promises
 - 3. He prepared **gifts** for Esau - Matt 5:25-26; Prov 21:14
 - a. He assigned a servant to each herd
 - b. He instructed them in what to do and say
 - c. He hoped to **appease** Esau - 1 Sam 25:18-25

III Jacob Wrestled With God

- A. Jacob got up in the **night**

- 1. He sent his family across the Jabbok
- 2. He sent all his possessions over as well
- B. Jacob was left alone and **wrestled** a man until daybreak
 - 1. The man could not overpower Jacob
 - 2. The man **touched** Jacob’s hip - Lk 9:24-25
 - 3. The man requested to be released
- C. Jacob spoke to the man
 - 1. He refused to let the man go - Lk 18:1-8
 - 2. He requests that the man **bless** him - 1 Chron 4:10
 - 3. He was asked for his name
 - 4. He was given a **new** name, Israel - Rev 2:17
 - 5. He inquired as to the man’s identity - Judg 13:17-19
 - 6. He was **blessed** by the man - Gen 28:13-15
- D. Jacob called the place Peniel
 - 1. He saw God face to face and **lived** - 2 Cor 3:18
 - 2. He had a permanent **limp** - 2 Cor 12:7-10

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- 1. Share a time when you had to go back to reconcile an old offense. What happened? What was the result?
- 2. List the specific steps that Jacob took to reconcile with Esau. Can you apply these principles to a conflict in your own life?
- 3. Jacob prepared for Esau by strategically planning and by seeking the Lord in prayer. Were his strategies (dividing his family and giving Esau gifts) a lack of faith? Why or why not? [Read Prov 4:5-6 and 21:31] And what are the six components of Jacob’s prayer to God? What can you learn from this?
- 4. If Jacob is wrestling with God, why didn’t God immediately pin him? What was the purpose of wrestling at all? What was the outcome? When was the last time you wrestled with God? What happened? Who won? What did you learn?
- 5. Take some time to thank the Lord for the “hip-wrenching” reminders of His power, love, and sovereignty. And if you are facing a frightening situation today, ask God to deliver you.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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