

# Reconciled At Last!

Genesis 33:1-20

## Introduction

### I Jacob Prepared To Meet Esau

- A. He **looked up** and saw Esau and 400 men - 2 Chron 20:12
- B. He divided his children among his wives - Is 50:10-11
- C. He strategically **positioned** his family
  - 1. Zilpah, Bilhah, Leah and Rachel
    - a. Rachel and Joseph were last - James 2:1
- D. He went on ahead to meet Esau - Jn 11:49-50
  - 1. He **bowed down** to Esau 7 times - Matt 5:25

### II Esau Accepted Jacob's Overture

- A. He **ran** to meet Jacob - Lk 15:17-24
- B. He embraced Jacob
- C. He **kissed** Jacob
  - 1. They **wept** together - Prov 28:13
- D. He questioned Jacob
  - 1. "Who are these women and children?"
    - a. They were graciously given by **God** - James 1:17
    - b. They all bowed down to Esau
  - 2. "What do you mean by all these droves I met?"
    - a. Esau was **content** with what he had - 1 Tim 6:6-10

### III Jacob Insisted On Making Restitution

- A. He encouraged Esau to **accept** his gifts - Lk 19:8-9
  - 1. "If I have found favor in your eyes" - Job 33:26
  - 2. "Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God" - Eph 5:1
  - 3. "You have received me favorably"
- B. He may have had **mixed** motivations for the gifts
  - 1. **Spoken** motivation:
    - a. "God has been gracious to me"
    - b. "I have all I need" - Phil 4:19
  - 2. **Unspoken** motivation:
    - a. Guilt over his past sins against Esau

- b. An attempt to appease Esau - Prov 18:16

### IV Jacob Remained Separate From Esau

- A. Esau offered to **accompany** Jacob - Prov 12:10; Is 40:11
  - 1. Jacob declined because of the children and animals
- B. Esau offered to provide men for **security**
  - 1. Jacob once again declined
- C. Esau returned to Seir expecting Jacob to join him
  - 1. Jacob went to Succoth - Gen 31:3, 13
    - a. He built a place for **himself**
    - b. He built shelters for his **livestock**
  - 2. Jacob came to a place called Shalem, a city of Shechem
    - a. He pitched his tent in the **sight** of Shechem - Gen 13
    - b. He bought a plot of ground in Shechem - Ps 1:1
    - c. He set up an **altar**; "El Elohe Israel" - 1 Sam 15:22

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when you experienced a wonderful reconciliation. What happened? How are things with that person now?
- 2. Read the story of The Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. Write down as many parallels between this story and the events surrounding Jacob and Esau's lives. What did you discover? What does Gen 33 and Luke 15:11-32 teach you about biblical reconciliation? What does it teach you about God?
- 3. Do you think the reconciliation between Jacob and Esau was complete? Why or why not? Support your conclusions from the text. What if anything was lacking?
- 4. Are you currently in a conflict? Read Matthew 5:23-26 and 18:15-17 for God's instructions. Ask the Holy Spirit to remove any fear, guide you in what to do and give you a willing heart to obey the truth of God's Word.

### BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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