

Genesis 32

Genesis 32.1-12

V1 – The threats of Laban had ended, but a larger problem was ahead – how to deal with Esau

- Jacob seems to be getting more and more mature spiritually
- On what other occasion had Jacob seen angels?** On his way to Paddan-aram (Laban's place)
- Significance?** Angels were watching over him "coming and going"
- "Guardian angels" today?** See *Hebrews 1.14*

V2 – **What did Jacob name the place?** Mahanaim

- Meaning?** "Two camps"
- Why call it that?** His own camp and the camp of the angels who were protecting him

V3 – **Who was "guiltier" over past sins, Jacob or Esau?** Jacob – had tricked his brother out of the birthright and had tricked his father Isaac

- Jacob makes the first move at reconciliation
- What had been Esau's attitude when Jacob left?** Esau was making plans to kill Jacob
- Amount of time elapsed?** 20 years

V4-5 – **What did Jacob do first?** Sent messages to Esau

- What was the message?** "I would like to see you again"

V6 – **Reply from Jacob's messengers?** Esau is coming with 400 men

V7 – **What was Jacob's reaction?** Fear!

- He assumed that Esau would attack
- What did Jacob do?** Divide his people into two groups

V8 – **Why did he divide his people into two groups?** If one was attacked, the other could escape

- Some couples fly separately on two planes, each with a separate child (in case of a crash)

V9 – **What is his attitude in v 9?** Very humble

- What did Jacob recall to God?** His instructions to return to his homeland

V10 – **Words of?** Thanksgiving

- How had God blessed Jacob?** Left home with only a staff – returning with two companies

V11 – **Next part of his prayer?** To save him from Esau

V12 – Again recalls the promise of God – he will have many descendants

Genesis 32.13-23

V13 – Night came

- What did Jacob do that night?** Began selecting gifts for Esau

V 14-15 – Describe the gifts? Very valuable (Jacob must have been very wealthy)

V 16 – Was Jacob going to personally deliver the presents? No

-Why not? Too dangerous

V 17-18 – Instructions to his servants

-What were they to tell Esau? These were presents from Jacob to Esau

V 19 – Several groups of animals were to be lined up as presents to Esau (Don't we wish someone like Jacob wanted to give us presents to "make up" after an argument)

V 20 – Jacob hoped to appease his brother

V 21 – The priests were sent on to Esau

V 22-23 – What did Jacob do next? Sent everyone else on over the River Jabbok

-River Jabbok – ½ way between Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea

Genesis 32.24-32

V 24 – Who wrestled with Jacob? "A man"

-V 30 identifies him as God (possibly Christ)

V 25 – Who was winning the wrestling match? Jacob (possibly the "man" was allowing Jacob to win in order to strengthen his resolve)

-What did the "man" do to Jacob? Dislocated his hip joint

V 26 – What did Jacob demand? To receive a blessing

V 27 – What does the name "Jacob" mean? Supplanter

-Was that a very good name? No – referred to birth of Esau and Jacob – *Genesis 25.26*

V 28 – Jacob's new name? Israel = one who prevails with God (or strives with God)

-What is usually associated with a name change in the Bible? A major step forward in spirituality

-Abram = Abraham

-Sarai = Sarah

-Simon = Peter

-Saul = Paul

V 29 – What did Jacob ask? The stranger's name – not given

V 30 – New name for that place? "Penile," meaning "face of God"

-Jacob thought he had seen God – at least he had wrestled with a form of God

V 31 – **Physical injury?** Limping

-**Significance?** This super being could have easily won if he had wanted to

V 32 – Out of respect to Jacob, the Jews did not eat meat of hip socket

Jacob is now prepared to deal with Esau

-He has a new name, and he know that God is with him

-He is returning as a new man (about 20 years later)

Revised 2012-09-15