

Genesis 32.1-21

I Surrender...*Almost...All!*

Chapter DAWNS full of PROMISE > Jacob SECURED Family & Fortune

Jacob Prosperous, Father of 12 > PAID in FULL – PEACE with Father-in-Law

Enters MAHANAIM - DOUBLE Camp – in Presence of ANGELS
Meeting Angels SETS the TONE of SURPRISE and UNCERTAINTY

1. Past – Catches Up to Us

We GO HOME to Visit Friends & Family – Reminded of Some ISSUES

PLACE you Pass By where you COMPROMISED your INTEGRITY

PERSON Meet again with whom You Still Have UNRESOLVED Differences

a. Skeletons in the Closet > Now JACOB must FACE his Family FAILURES

Jacob's way to the HEIGHTS now leads thru Valley of HUMILIATION

Probably heard about ESAU growing PROSPERITY and POWER – EDOM

v. 3 And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom

SEIR = HAIRY / EDOM = RED, Both NAMES describe OLDER Bro ESAU

20 yrs of SILENCE from Home – If Papa ISAAC died, maybe Esau got ALL!

Word ESAU occurs 9 X's in our TEXT – In Center of Jacob's Worried MIND

GROWN in Power: **LAND** of Seir, the **COUNTRY** of Edom

Jacob Assumed Esau still held ANGRY GRUDGE > takes PRECAUTIONS

GUILTY Conscience leads Jacob to EXPECT the WORST

Jacob just made BOLD SPEECH standing up to Father-in-Law LABAN
 FEARLESS ACCUSATION exposing the Wrong and Injustice LABAN Did

But as he ANTICIPATES facing ESAU Jacob is GRIPPED by FEAR

With LABAN, JACOB was the Offended Party – but Jacob offended ESAU
 Shakespeare wrote, *‘Conscience doth make cowards of us all.’* This was
 precisely Jacob’s problem. He was bold before Laban because he had lived an
 upright life before Laban. He cowered before Esau because he remembered the
 evil he had done to Esau, and his conscience convicted him of the wrong doing.
 James Boice

Jacob CAUGHT between ROCK and a HARD PLACE

This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this
 heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do
 harm.
 Genesis 31.52

PILE of Rocks and PROMISE of Covenant prevent him from Going BACK
 Behind: INSULTED F-in-Law LABAN //AHEAD: OFFENDED Brother Esau

20 years EARLIER Jacob STOLE Esau’s BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

Rebekah called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother
 Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you... Arise, flee to Laban
 my brother in Haran...until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he
 forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there.
 Genesis 27.42-45

Jacob RAN Away > Never got any ALL CLEAR Sign from MAMA

Jacob SPRINGS into FLURRY of PLANNING & PRAYING – in That Order!

b. Testing the Waters Sends MESSAGE with 3 Basic Points

v. 4 “Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, ‘I have
 sojourned with Laban and stayed until now’”

Jacob TELESCOPES 20 years in SIX WORDS

Servant / Lord = Language FORMAL COURTESY – True Humility? Just Fear?

Jacob has MATURED, Not 80 yr old KID Brother he WAS, NOW over 100!
I've NOT been HIDING, AVOIDING you, or SNEAKING Around behind Back

v. 5 "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants."

I have PLENTY – NOT trying to Take Anything FROM YOU – Or make Claim

v. 5 "I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight"

Let's FORGET the PAST – TODAY is NEW Day – Let's be BFF's!!

vs. 6,7 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him."
7Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed.

Jacob is Very TROUBLED by Esau's LOUD SILENCE

400 – ROUND Number for a MILITIA – Seems to be coming to FIGHT

Message Disturbing UNCLEAR – Gonna get WELCOME or a WHOOPING!?

2. Present – Call Upon a Higher Power

When all else FAILS, TRY PRAYER! – Jacob has Better Excuse than We DO

Covenant Family LIMITED Understanding of God's Will – 4000 yrs ago

NO Written Scripture, Toddlers in Understanding of God they FOLLOWED

Not Know 10 Commandments or Sermon on Mount or Finished Work of Jesus!

Followed Life of Jacob thru 7 chapters of Bible > FIRST recorded PRAYER

Been GOOD at RELIGIOUS Talk – first we see Jacob actually PRAY

At BETHEL – 20 yrs Earlier - he did make a VOW to God...

Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."
Genesis 28.20-22

God must've GOTTEN EXCITED! GREAT DEAL! Give Jacob 90% Gets 10%!
 Last 20 yrs JACOB Exceedingly BLESSED: Not sure HOW Jacob paid TITHE?
 Even MORE than our CASH, God wants us to COMMUNE with Him!

Once Jacob does PRAY he prays WELL – LONGEST Prayer in Genesis

a. Tell God who He is to You

v. 9 And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac,
 O LORD

Wish we saw CLEARER Testimony of his PERSONAL Allegiance

GRANDPA’S God, PAPA’S God – **AND MY GOD TOO!!...** getting There!

b. God’s Promises are Basis of Prayer’s Petitions

v. 9 O LORD who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, that I
 may do you good,’

RECALLS Promise of God made 20 yrs Earlier in BETHEL...

“I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land
 on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be
 like the dust of the earth...and in you and your offspring shall all the families of
 the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go,
 and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done
 what I have promised you.” Genesis 28.13-15

Prayer is asking God for what He has already promised. Martin Luther

Like LITTLE Kid who catches Parents in their INCONSISTENT WORDS

“But you PROMISED I would get ICE CREAM if I did not hit my Sister!”

Of course, God of INFINITE Wisdom never Promises what He does Not PLAN

v. 12 But you said, ‘I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the
 sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

c. Humble Admission of Unworthiness

v. 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.

HUMBLE Not to FEEL More Spiritual > that's PRIDE – 2 Camps // like Angels

I wrote the BOOK on HUMILITY and HOW I ATTAINED IT!

Jacob seeing > GROWING in the Lord means becoming SMALLER

Jesus said – Tax Collector who could NOT Look up to Heaven – Beat his Breast saying “God be merciful to me, a sinner” Went down to his house JUSTIFIED

d. Be Honest with God

v. 11 Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, *for I fear him*

Not FAKE GOD TALK – Real HONEST Prayer– I am AFRAID – he Struggles

God called David “Man after My Own Heart,” was Painfully Honest in Prayer

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? Psalm 13.1

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Psalm 22.1

O Lord, how long will you look on? Rescue my life from their ravages... Psalm 35.17

I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" Psalm 42.9

e. Confession of Desperation

v. 11 he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children.

Jacob was DESPERATE – Save ME and MY KIDS!! – No OTHER Hope

Lays out his FEARS and HOPES before God and MOVES Forward in Faith
 ANGER and FEAR is NOT LAST WORD.... Coming to Sovereign Savior
 HONESTY before God often leads to HUMILITY in His HOLY Presence

If concern for God's interests were a criterion for the maturity of a prayer, Jacob's would barely register on the scale. Yet at least he realizes something that is significant and that will eventually put him where God can do something with him: He cannot rely on his own skills to assure the safety of his own family.

John Walton

3. Future – Consolidate your Assets

ONE thing MISSING from Jacob's Prayer: FULL SURRENDER –

Jacob still living up to his NAME – BUSINESS Man takes Careless RISKS

vs. 7-9 He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, thinking, "If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape." And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham...

"God bless MY plans!...Not WHAT is YOUR Plan?!!"

JACOB PLANNED then PRAYED – Prayer: Pixie Dust Sprinkled on his Ideas

Nothing WRONG with WISE, FAITH-Based Planning in the WILL OF GOD

God USES Means, Medicine, Preaching, Love, Works, Labor

Nehemiah – Works and Waits on God / Talks to King of Kings & King of Persia

a. Presents cause Panic

Jacob is Better at PLANNING to COVER HIS TRACKS than Praying...

vs. 13-19 from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty

female donkeys and ten male donkeys. These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, “Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove.” He instructed the first, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, ‘To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?’ then you shall say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.’” He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves

220 Goats / 220 Sheep / 30 Camels & young / 50 Cows / 30 Donkeys

GIFT Larger than TOWN would PAY in TRIBUTE to FOREIGN KINGS

= 550 Major DISTRACTIONS! Gifts will Keep on Giving Jacob chance to Live!

5 Separate GROUPS of Animals -- Fluster his Adversary

If E. plans SURPRISE AMBUSH, must get out Hiding Place w/ each GIFT

Element of SURPRISE will be SPOILED by NOISY Animals

Esau's SOLDIERS will have to focus on task of SHEPHERDING

Troop ADVANCE will be SLOWED by pace of GRAZING ANIMALS

Jacob's SERVANTS who lead Animals Now EMBEDDED in Laban's FORCES

b. Following the Family Jacob will MINIMIZE his LOSSES – Split Up

On the DEPARTURE from HARAN and Setting Out we saw Jacob LEAD Well

But NOW we SLIPS back to being STRONG SILENT Irresponsible HUSBAND

So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants. And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. Genesis 33.1-3

SERVANTS First – he VALUED them the LEAST

NEXT Leah – LEAST Favored WIFE --- *Gee thanks My Husband!* 7 kids!

Sure he would be SAD to Lose them – But war always has Collateral Damage

NEXT Rachel – Favorite Wife and Favorite Son JOSEPH

FINALLY he sent MOST FAVORITE Person in Whole Wide World – Himself!!

Gave up his FLOCKS, FAMILY, he even had FIRST Prayer - Same OLD Jacob!

UPDATES Well known GOSPEL SONG “I Surrender All...of my GOATS!!”

“I Surrender All...of my SHEEP!!”

“I Surrender All...of my MONEY!!”

“I Surrender All...of my FAMILY!!”

VERSE God is MOST Want to HEAR “I Surrender All...of MYSELF!!

Jacob is like SO MANY – Some here – SELF SUFFICIENT! No Need for God!

NON-Christian – Hard-Working, Honest, Admired by Others, Upstanding

Jesus is CRUTCH for those who Cannot make it ONE THEIR OWN!

No NEED for a Savior – Don’t think your SINNERS > Moral & Ethical

Self-Reliant, Masters of own DESTINY – Faith in Self is ENOUGH for Them!

Sometimes we’re SHAKEN by Problem TOO BIG to Handle on OWN

Health – Family – Job – Finances > LOSS Bigger than OWN RESOURCES

FACE, Serious, GOD-SIZED CHALLENGES

CHRISTIAN?? – Sadly, Not only Unbelievers act SELF-SUFFICIENT

Faith grows from REGULAR to ROUTINE to EMPTY RITUAL

PRAY right Prayer, READ right BIBLE Vs, Give God some CREDIT

God moves from PILOT to PASSENGER Seat – Not Forsaken just Forgotten

4. Forever Faithfulness of our Eternal God

Even with his BEST TACTICS and SCHEMES > Jacob still feels VUNERABLE

Done ALL HE can DO > Still FEELS that it is NOT ENOUGH!

v. 20 For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me ...Perhaps he will accept me."

REAL Struggle starts HERE > Only one who can Truly PROTECT is God

...spiritually Jacob needed to get past Esau before he could enter the land of promise. Past sins cannot be ignored as if they never happened... True repentance requires not merely inward sorrow but outward restitution and restoration of damaged relationships.

Iain Duguid

If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5.23,24

a. Surrounded by Strength

20 yrs ago – As he RAN from ESAU – Jacob met ANGELS of God

NOW about to RUN Back INTO Esau – Jacob again meets Angels of God

INCLUSIO – ANGELS at Beginning and END of Journey to HARAN

vs. 1,2 Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's camp!" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

ANGELS - We Imagine 2 or 3 CUDDLTY, Chubby, Cute CHERUBS

THINK BIG! word CAMP: ARMY / LEGION HOST of Mighty Angels of God

BEFORE he Embraced the Cross the Lord Jesus challenged his Disciples...

Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

Matthew 26.53

Even if there was JUST ONE Angel – Jacob should have found Strength in God

REAL Struggle starts HERE > KNOW Only One can Truly PROTECT is God

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Psalm 34.7

Jacob FORGET the PROMISE of Bethel & PROVISION of last 20 years

IMMOBILIZED by Faithlessness and FEARS

Stop right now and cease to rationalize your fears. Ask God to turn you inside out and deliver you from whatever you have excused...As though a child of God, destined to sit upon the throne of God, and to be like the Son of God, should be filled with anguish at the memory of some sin long ago thrust out of sight!

Donald Grey Barnhouse

How often do WE TRUST unseen FORCES of God's Presence & Power

Do we THINK Angels surround us in LIFE and MINISTRY? They DO!

Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Hebrews 1.14

1960's Brother ANDREW – Dutchman called “God's Smuggler”

Driving VW into ROMANIA packed with CONTRABAND > Romanian Bibles

Faithful Romanian Christians were WAITING & PRAYING to get TREASURE

6 Cars were AHEAD of Andrew at Border Crossing on this SUMMER Day

Each car was THOROUGHLY Searched – Almost 1 hour per Car

Seats – Door Panels – Hubcabs REMOVED / ENGINES partially Disassembled

Andrew watched and waited in FEAR – Bibles hidden in those places & More!

One car before the Checkpoint Andrew prayed:

Dear Lord, I know that no amount of cleverness on my part can get me through this border search. Dare I ask for a miracle? Let me take some of the Bibles out and leave them in the open where they will be seen. Then, Lord, I cannot possibly be depending on my own stratagems can I? I will be depending utterly on You?

Left BIBLES on Seat Beside him – Rolled slowly to forward to Security Guard
 He GRABBED Andrew's Documents – Looked at his Face – Waved in Thru!

Of COURSE we should WISELY PLAN – Certainly PRAY – But at end of Day
 Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Psalm 127.1

Like ELISHA'S Servant we Need Eyes Opened to see Chariots of God Around
 THE Angel of God – MESSENGER from Bosom of Father – EMMANUEL

“Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28.20

b. Peace with The Peacemaker

Jacob is Very TROUBLED by Esau's LOUD SILENCE – 400 Men Coming!

PAINFUL to be Misunderstood – Desired PEACE, Now a FIGHT LOOMING!

Tried to be RECONCILED but it all seems to be BLOWING Up in his FACE

If your prime motivation is to please God, then you will persevere in doing the
 right thing even when it brings you nothing but trouble and persecution. Iain Duguid

We are ON THE WAY HOME – Not PROMISED Smooth Sailing

God being in YOUR CAMP – Not Absence of Problems, Setbacks, Enemies

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you,
 as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you
 share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is
 revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the
 Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a
 murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a
 Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

1 Peter 4.12-16

Of Course we WANT to be Right with Man – we MUST be RIGHT with GOD

c. Grace that will Not let us Go

See PATIENT, GRACIOUS, Unfolding of God's Sovereign Plan of Redemption

Jacob illustrates the gulf between man's thinking and God's...grace, as Jacob would soon discover, not negotiation, is the only solvent of guilt. Derek Kidner

Many PEOPLE Surprised by STUDY of JACOB

How could GOD USE such a Cheater, Liar, Deceiver like him to be Patriarch??

How would we PASS the Search Test of God's Microscope in OUR LIFE?

Many of us have a LIMITED Idea of Grace, Fixed amount might USE it UP!!

God's NATURE is to show MERCY – GRACE is who our GOD IS

Paul uses 5 ALL's in One Verse to Describe GOD'S GRACE in Christ

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9.8

God cannot DENY His Covenant LOYALTY > Call is IRREVOCABLE

Delivered Jacob from ARAMEAN named Laban / EDOMITE named ESAU

NONE of us have EVER FULLY SURRENDERED ALL – But HE DID for US!

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. John 10.17,18

Genesis 32:¹ Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ²And when Jacob saw them he said, “This is God's camp!” So he called the name of that place Mahanaim. ³And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, ⁴instructing them, “Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, ‘I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now. ⁵I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.’” ⁶And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him.” ⁷Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, ⁸thinking, “If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape.” ⁹And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,’ ¹⁰I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. ¹¹Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. ¹²But you said, ‘I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’” ¹³So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, ¹⁴two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. ¹⁶These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, “Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove.” ¹⁷He instructed the first, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, ‘To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?’ ¹⁸then you shall say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.’” ¹⁹He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, “You shall say the same thing to Esau when you find him, ²⁰and you shall say, ‘Moreover, your servant Jacob is behind us.’” For he thought, “I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me.” ²¹So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp.