

Genesis 32.22-32

Broken for Blessing

Most DRAMATIC and MEMORABLE Event in the Colorful Life of JACOB

Most TERRIFYING yet Most TRANSFORMING NIGHT of his LONG Life

### 1. A Man Confidently Secure?

Patriarch 100 yrs Old - WON many BATTLES, LOSING the WAR

Even on this LAST NIGHT of the OLD JACOB – Busy making his PLANS!

a. Strategy v. 21 So the present passed on ahead of him...

Present 4 Offended Bro. Esau - 5 GROUPS of Animals -- Fluster his Adversary

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

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

vs. 22.23 The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had.

HUMAN SHIELDS added to ANIMAL PHALANXES

SLY JACOB SACRIFICES FORTUNE & FAMILY to SAVE Himself!!

BILLS are PAID – Family & Fortune is GROUPED into SAFE BUNDLES

Done all he CAN to PREPARE for ENTERING again into PROMISED LAND

Who is AUDIENCE of this Message? Who was this FIRST WRITTEN for?

Most IMPORTANT Question in how to PROPERLY INTERPRET Bible

**What is MESSAGE of Original AUTHOR to the Original AUDIENCE?**

MOSES > History of Patriarchs to NATION that EMERGED from THEM

After 400 yrs Egyptian SLAVERY, Following God A,I,J to same Promised Land

Their PARENTS all DIED because FAILED to Trust God

40 years WASTING AWAY Because They TRUSTED Selves, NOT Savior

PEPSI Generation about ENTER Land filled w/ UNKNOWN ADVERSARIES

Will THEY TRUST ThemSELVES or this ALMIGHTY STEALTH Fighter?

You here in ZGC – PEPSI Generation > Promise Land ahead of YOU

PARENTS cannot SAVE You – YOU – ALONE – Must FACE THIS God!

b. Solitude v. 24 And Jacob was left alone. **W/Out Protection or Possessions**

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.”

Can he SLEEP! We're NOT TOLD – PROBABLY it was a Restless Night!

Jacob – PATRIARCH, POWERFUL Man – On this NIGHT he has NOTHING

No WHERE or NO ONE to Turn to EXCEPT MAKER of STARS in Dark SKY

For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

1 Timothy 6.7

## 2. A Man Completely Shocked

JACOB has LIVED a LIFE of SHOCKS and SURPRISES

DUPED his OLDER Brother and got ESAU'S BIRTHRIGHT

He & Mother DECEIVED his BLIND FATHER and STOLE the BLESSING

F-in-Law LABAN Deceived him > Switched WIFE, Swindoled WAGES 10 x's

Now JACOB'S Sins have MET him – LABAN Behind / ESAU Before

**NIGHT = DISTRESS & UNCERTAINTY:** Last Dark Night of Jacob's Life  
 TWISTED Man, God will NOT Leave him like THAT – He will UNTWIST him  
 God will FLATTEN him – BEND him – to Make him STRAIGHT & RIGHT

a. Intensity

Jacob was BORN a FIGHTER > Came out of WOMB clutching HEEL of Esau

Would NOT BE OUTDONE – Fought HARD with ALL until HE WON!

NOTHING he WANTED in LIFE that Jacob Could NOT WIN

That NIGHT Jacob will MEET his MATCH – FIGHTER who will BEST him

v. 24 And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

OLYMPIC Wrestling Matches are measured in Minutes

These 2 TITANS TANGLED for HOURS All thru the NIGHT until DAWN

At Young Age of 80 Jacob Rolled Stone from Watering Hole at Haran

At 100 Jacob is STILL GOING STRONG! > MORE than Physical Contest

v. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

MATCH was ENDED by MERE TOUCH to the HIP Socket

Jacob could NO LONGER THRUST his Weight into this Feisty Opponent

Jacob COULD No LONGER Even Stand – Would WIN by LOSING

BOWING Down in HUMBLE, WORSHIP – Refusing to LET GO!

NOW he's BEATEN, Now his hands HUNG LIMP

In some WAYS this ENCOUNTER parallels the STORY of JOB

One GRIM Blow – Satan STOLE his CHILDREN, WEALTH, HEALTH

DESPITE the FOOLISH Advice of 3 Friends – Would NOT Let Go of God

Though he slay me, I will hope in him...

Job 13.15

b. Identity – EMERGES only GRADUALLY v. 24 a man wrestled with him

Is it a Thief? – Attacker? – Assassin sent by Laban or Esau? – Esau?

A.N.E. Valleys Gods of TERRITORY would PROTECT their BORDERS

NIGHT NINJA is NONE OTHER than INVISIBLE God who's Come as MAN  
v. 28 you have striven with God

v. 30 Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God  
face to face

He SPOKE with ADAM in GARDEN / DINED with Abe at OAKS of MAMRE  
After BURNING BUSH God arrives to KILL Moses, Profaned Covenant circum  
Before JOSHUA Battle, CAPT of Lord's Army shows Rules Promised Land

The God-man will wrestle with Jacob at this boundary to prevent him from  
inappropriately entering this dangerous territory. Bruce Waltke

"Aslan is no tame lion!"

C.S. Lewis, *Chronicles of Narnia*

Jacob Asked GOD to be WITH HIM – PROTECT him, PROVIDE for him

vs. 11,12 Please 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.  
But you said, 'I will surely do you good...

NEVER Imagined THEN how GOD was going to ANSWER his PRAYERS!

WHEN Jacob FINDS God – He NOW finds his OWN IDENTITY!

NAME > Character, Deepest IDENTITY – Real PERSON, Who you ARE

v. 27 And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.”

ALMOST Needs APOLOGIZE when Says his NAME: Cheater, Thief, Deceiver

For JACOB just to SAY his NAME was LIKE a CONFESSION of his SINS

Most of his ACQUAINTANCES became his ADVERSARIES – Now even GOD

If God asks YOU YOUR Name what is it?? How do you APPEAR before Him?

GOSSIP? LIAR? COWARD? FORNICATOR? PERVERT? MURDERER?

NEVER DARE call E/Other that, God sees BEHIND Smiling Church Faces

No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4.13

RADICAL Change in NAME – Not just TWEAK – Abram/Abraham or Sarai/ah

Genesis 22 – Greatest SACRIFICE God could ask of ABE was his SON

Genesis 32 – Greatest SACRIFICE God could ask of JACOB was him SELF

END of Old Name JACOB – Beginning of NEW ISRAEL

ISRAEL 2 Hebrew Words – SARAH = fight, struggle, rule // EL = God

Can Mean – Struggles w/ God or Wins with God

v. 28 Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

But can ALSO Mean GOD WINS, GOD RULES, GOD PREVAILS

Both ELEMENTS are True in Jacob’s LIFE

Jacob’s life to THIS POINT was about ALWAYS WINNING

Stood Up to Everyone and Anyone – Father, Mother, Brother, F/in Law, Wives  
 BEAT ALL of them but ENDS up the LOSER – Lost Respect, Dignity, Security

There are victories far worse than defeats, and to overcome an angel too gentle to put out all his strength, and ride away in triumph on the back of a devil, is one of the poorest.  
 George MacDonald

THIS is Jacob's FIRST True VICTORY – Soundly BEATEN, Fully Blessed  
 Permanently WOUNDED but will forever PERESEVERE in Walking with God  
 FINDS Strength – WINS with God – thru FULL SURRENDER to Him

God does not play by our rules, and He never loses. He is the sovereign God. His will is done. So, whether we like the way He plays or not, God always wins the contest. If we are smart, we recognize this early and submit to it. James Boice

PROCESS > GROWING in that Newness, Still CALLED Jacob MOST of Time  
 He is *simul justus et peccator* – at the same time justified and a sinner.  
 Martin Luther

As LONG as he LIVED on EARTH he was still JACOB...AND ISRAEL

c. Intercession – Jacob NOT Looking for GOD – He said his Prayer EARLIER  
 He DOES NOT WANT to meet ANYONE!! Catch some SLEEP & WAIT!

v. 24 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him...

We must not think – as many commentators have suggested – that this passage is an encouragement to what we call prevailing prayer. It is not that Jacob was seeking God...it is God who comes to wrestle with Jacob to bring him to a point of both physical and spiritual submission.  
 James Boice

JACOB is still JACOB > He will NOT let God go without a BLESSING

When JACOB DISCOVERS Who ATTACKER is, he cries to him in Deperation

**BOLDLY** looks God in **FACE** – Dawn breaks on their Exhausted **BODIES**

vs. 26,29 Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”... Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him.

Jacob **CLINGS** to Wrestler **LIKE LIMP RAG DOLL**

Jacob had made a career out of extracting a blessing from the most unpromising of circumstances. He must have that blessing, no matter what! However, this time - Jacob was finally forced to seek the blessing in the right place, from God...In this struggle with God, there are two keys to understanding Jacob’s success. He doesn’t give up, and he doesn’t run away. Iain Duguid

**R WE** Ready to **CLING** to Him? Not knowing Future, but convinced He **DOES**

Can we **WALK** thru **DARK VALLEYS?** – Struggle those **LONG NIGHTS?**

**MUST** God roll out **SOFT RED** Carpet us to Follow like an **APEC** Dignitary?

Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11.6

7 yrs. ago **SINGAPORE** – Faith **NEW** Level of Desperation, Dr. Loh saw growth

Thyroid Nodule – ½ Needed Taken Out – Only Problem **THROAT SLIT**

Thursday: Nic Vocal Cords, All kinds of Stuff There > Forward for Prayer

Good Cut – Cancer – 2 mos back Again – Fly from **KZ** > Stretcher – High 5’s

Need **THROAT** Slit Again – Won’t call **ISIS** – Call my Friend Dr. **LOH!**

There were hours of desperate, agonized conflict, spiritual, and, as it appeared to Jacob, physical also...he grew ever more conscious of his own state – utterly helpless and, without God, utterly hopeless. He felt the full bitterness of his unscrupulous, cynical ways...he had hitherto been self-reliant, believing himself to be more than a match for anything that might come, but now he felt his complete inability to handle things, and knew with blinding, blazing certainty that never again dare he trust himself. J.I. Packer

### 3. A Man Conquered for Salvation

#### a. The Limper

20 yrs Earlier MEETING w/ ANGELS in Bethel made Jacob THINK DEEPLY

Now MAULED by THE Angel of LORD who DEMANDS Full ATTENTION

It was not Esau who could prevent him from entering the Promised Land; only God could do that. It is not Esau he must fear; it is God he must fear. Iain Duguid

REACTION must be MORE than REFLECTION > Must be REPENTANCE

FAITH is an ACTIVE PASSIVITY – Ask, Seek, Knock, CLING to Him

Jesus says MAKE EVERY EFFORT to enter thru NARROW DOOR

Jesus: “I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” Luke 13.3

Christians TODAY like to KNOW EXACT Time of their Conversion

SOME have Unforgettable DAMASCUS Road MOMENT to Forever Remember

MANY – Like Jacob – Follow GOD in FITS and STARTS thru LIFE

I would not walk across the street to find out when I was saved,  
but I would travel around the world to make sure that I was.

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11.12

STORY of God continues with People who STRUGGLE – Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Judges, Ruth and Naomi, Hannah, David, Jeremiah, Daniel, Apostles

“...through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God”  
Acts 14.22



v. 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

SUN is Up! > SHONE on his Battered Body, Torn Clothes, Bloody Trail

God BREAKS those parts of him that are EVIL and DESTRUCTIVE

God BENDS his NOW Sanctified gifts of TENACITY, ZEAL, and STRENGTH

SUN Rises with HOPE, Oppressive DARKNESS is Over – Peace w/ God & man

The limp is the posture of the saint, walking not in physical strength but in spiritual strength.

Bruce Waltke

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12.10

One Day THIS LIMPER – thru Repentance & Faith – will Enter the City of God

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it

Revelation 21.23.24

In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us — the LORD, the God of hosts

Hosea 12.3-5

b. The Loser GOD loses the STRUGGLE for JACOB to WIN

v. 26 Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.”

v. 28 “...you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

God accommodated himself to Jacob’s context...God struggled with him but did not crush him...He assessed his true value...the more powerful One

acknowledged the strength of the weaker

Samuel Ngewa



God NOT like Father who MUST Win!!

Dad who CONVINCES Kids they Really Won!

Jacob – NACHO LIBRE – pins God to the MAT!

Jacob's victory was not a conquest. He had not mastered the Angel of God. Lame and helpless, he could only cling to the One who laid hold of him...He did not let go because he could not...Faith wins when it knows all is lost and clings to God alone...Yet losing, the Lord wins. He suffers an apparent defeat to gain true victory. The weakness of God is stronger than men. The Lord of glory humbles Himself so that helpless sinners may receive His blessing. Edmund Clowney

Jesus Christ WRESTLED with Satan ALL thru His Years of MINISTRY

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. Luke 4.13

Jesus was ASSAULTED by God the FATHER as he HUNG Upon the CROSS

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27.46

MUCH MORE than just WALKING WOUND to his HIP

WOUNDED – FLOGGED – CRUCIFIED – BORE the SINS of the WORLD

Jesus clung to God and would not let him go unless he received a blessing – not a blessing for us, his people. Through his faithful clinging to the Father, he prevailed over sin and death, and as a result he has been given the name above every name. Iain Duguid

He is the TRUE ISRAEL of God – Struggled w/ God & man & OVERCOME!

Jesus STRUGGLES for the BLESSING for YOU

ENTERS the New Day for US > New ERA of Redemption, Victory, Grace

Dying HE Lives, Struck DOWN He is EXALTED

The name of the Lord is too wonderful for Jacob's ears; the face of the Lord is too glorious for Jacob's eyes. Yet the Lord Himself comes that Jacob may know Him. His coming to Jacob anticipated His coming to us. Jacob saw the face of the Lord but dimly; we see the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Jacob asked for God's own name; we are baptized into the name of the triune God. Through the name of Jesus, exalted above every name, we bear the name of the Almighty God as our Heavenly Father. Edmund Clowney

In our STRUGGLES & SUFFERING we're taught to ABANDON Self-Reliance  
 LOOK to CROSS – CLING to God Alone – Look to Him ALONE for Blessing  
 When you Truly FEAR God, Nothing in THIS WORLD can Stand Agnst YOU!  
 Jesus was BROKEN – MADE the LOSER – that we may be BLESSED.....

Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,  
 While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high.  
 Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;  
 Safe into the haven guide; Oh, receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
 Leave, ah! leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me.  
 All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;  
 Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.

Wilt Thou not regard my call? Wilt Thou not accept my prayer?  
 Lo! I sink, I faint, I fall — Lo! on Thee I cast my care.  
 Reach me out Thy gracious hand! While I of Thy strength receive,  
 Hoping against hope I stand, Dying, and behold, I live.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, More than all in Thee I find;  
 Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
 Just and holy is Thy Name, Source of all true righteousness;  
 Thou art evermore the same, Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin;  
 Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within.  
 Thou of life the fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee;  
 Spring Thou up within my heart; Rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," 1740

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Genesis 32<sup>22</sup>The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. <sup>32</sup>Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.