

Genesis 33.1-20

First Steps into the Fog

The MORNING AFTER – 1st Day of REST of Jacob's – a.k.a. Israel – LIFE

Jacob's New Birth EXPERIENCE: Emotional, Exhilarating, EXHAUSTING

Took the WHOOPING of his Life > WRESTLING for Hours with God Himself

NOW Faces the GIANT that FORCED him to GET SERIOUS with GOD

LIKE US – Something PUSHES us to God – Problem, Relationship, Sickness...

Something we REALIZE we CANNOT HANDLE on our OWN

1. Fog of the Old Nature: Jacob not yet Israel

1st DAY of Jacob's NEW LIFE – 1st STEPS into FOG – Quandary of Questions

a. Bowing

v. 3 He himself...bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

10 yrs ago: KOREA w/ KAZAKH Christian Brother – Shared in Churches there

He had BEEN a STAUNCH MUSLIM became SINCERE CHRISTIAN

ISLAM forbids IDOLS, IMAGES, PICTURES or DEPICTIONS of ALLAH

2nd Commandment: Don't MAKE ANY Image or BOW DOWN to It

NURZHAN & I taken by Korean Hosts to Beautiful Park

MASSIVE Buddha: 100's Lining Up BOWING, Kneeling, Praying – Statue!

Bro Nurzhan NEW Level of Understanding: How LOST & Foolish People Are

Here NEWLY CONVERTED Jacob LICKING Up Dust Before PAGAN ESAU

What a SUCK UP! Literally! – Jacob should STAND Like a Man not a WIMP?

MORAL & ETHICAL FOG in Following God – Lack of Certainty, CLARITY

Is RIGHT Thing for Jacob to Do?? Just being HUMBLE? RESPECTFUL?

Tablet from Egyptian History SAME Time Period – If Meet Pharaoh bow 7 X's
Jacob is MEETING a KING – ESAU is RULER of KINGDOM of EDOM

Alexander the Great leading troops down Eastern Coast of Mediterranean
Would EXTEND his EMPIRE from GREECE to the INDUS RIVER
Coastal STRONGHOLD, TYRE – 7 months BESIEGE & Eventually DESTROY

Alex. appealed to Jerusalem for Arms & Supplies, JADDUS High Priest Refused
Jews fear REVENGE of Alex's Enemy – King DARIUS of PERSIA

Without Jewish help – Alex. Conquered TYRE – Jaddus, City, TERRIFIED!
God spoke to High Priest in DREAM – Do NOT FEAR Alexander – Not Fight!

Go OUT Meet him, All Citizens dressed in White – Priests in Ceremonial Robes
SHOCK – Alex. Great BOWED Down to Jewish High Priest in PEACE
Said > Before Campaign DREAM in Macedonia, saw Vision of this Very Priest!

Promise: He would CONQUER ASIA / Alex Knew was Blessing from True God
NOW Alex Great bowed before Earthly REPRESENTATIVE of this TRUE God

Now Offended ESAU the Great coming to Meet Brother JACOB



LAST Time these BROTHERS Met

YOUNGER Jacob Stealing BIRTHRIGHT & BLESSING

Expect BIG, HAIRY, RED Brother be ANGRY & REVENGE

20 yrs Earlier Wanted to KILL him!

Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

Genesis 27.41

Jacob: “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...” Genesis 32.11

v. 1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him.

Had they COME to PARTY or PUNISH? WELCOME or a WHOOPING?

TENSION is BROKEN EARLY in the Story >> PEACE!!

v. 4 But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

BROTHER would NOT Grovel before HIM > Wept TOGETHER

Same Language used by JESUS tells Story of PRODIGAL Son in Luke 15

Father RUNS to Wayward Son – Interrupts Confessions – Embraces – Weeps

Father Isaac to Jacob (*who he thought was Esau!*): “Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. *Be lord over your brothers*, and may your mother's sons bow down to you” Genesis 27.29

ONLY God can DO this – HEARTS are like STONE, full of HATRED, Revenge

God went BEFORE BOTH Brothers – Changed HEARTS of Jacob & ESAU

TRUE RECONCILIATION has come when WHOLE FAMILY Embraces

vs. 6,7 Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down.

Would have FALLEN FLAT if One of Wives said, “My Husband sucks up to you but I am gonna keep standing because I think you’re a CHUMP”

1 of KIDS “Hey Uncle Esau, you are NOT as UGLY as my Dad says you are!”

b. Bribe or Blessing?

v. 8 Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor in the sight of my lord.”

Esau DRAGGING Along MENAGERIE Jacob’s BARNYARD ANIMALS

Hey Jacob! Is this BACKSHISH? GUANSHI? PAYMENT OFF THE BOOKS?

v. 9 Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.”

Eating Out with Friends – Dread the REALITY its YOUR Turn to PAY the Bill

THEY Say – “I’ll PAY” / You QUICKLY say “OK, Thanks Very Much!!”

OLD Jacob –When Esau says Don’t Need 550 Animals– OK, I’ll Take ‘em Back

ANCIENT Custom – like ASIAN Custom Today – EXCHANGE of Gifts

When GIFT Offered must be REFUSED – Other Party must PUSH it ON Them

ESAU does NOT Refuse – Knows its MORE than Custom: **RESTITUTION**

Brother Jacob STOLE from him BIRTHRIGHT, BLESSING, HOPE, FUTURE

v. 11 Please accept *my blessing* that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” Thus he urged him, and he took it.

Esau’s BLESSING was STOLEN – DECEIVER Now HUMBLED

Met with God who GAVE HIM MORE than he EVER DESERVED

SMALL Token to BLESS Brother who COULD RIGHTLY Take his LIFE

Repentance involves a costly obedience, not merely repeating certain words.

Iain Duguid

c. Bluffing

Esau HAPPY to See BROTHER Again – Wants to CATCH UP on 20 Lost Years

v. 12 Then Esau said, “Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you.”

Do YOU have WE CHAT? U on FACEBOOK? Of course you’re LINKED IN!

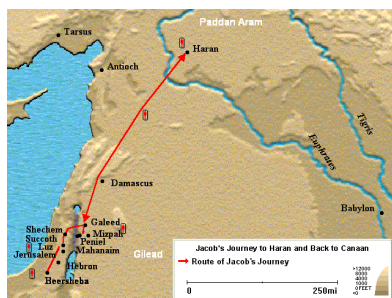
Reconciliation does NOT Demand wearing MATCHING T-Shirts or Hats

Can Be FINE with Someone and at SAME TIME BE FAR!

Jacob realizes best way to MAINTAIN Peace is KEEP Some SPACE Between DISTANCE is FINE –Maybe BEST– But DISHONESTY does NOT Honor God

v. 13 But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the nursing flocks and herds are a care to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die.

EXAGGERATION – Running for 300 miles already STILL VERY WELL



Step into Story: JACOB’S 500 Mile
JOURNEY BACK HOME

Been AWAY from HOME for 20 years –

1st Meeting with MEMBER of Family

v. 14 Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.”

DECEIT ‘UNTIL I COME’ – a LIE – Jacob has NO INTENTION of Coming

v. 15 So Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord.”

Let me LEAVE Some my 400 Homeboys to HELP you FIND Way to My Place

Since NOT GOING to Esau's Place – NO Need for his POLICEMEN

Just BROKEN by God of TRUTH for LIFETIME of LYING and DECEIT

OLD MAN dies HARD: Right w/ Enemies: Laban & Esau, Not RIGHT w/SELF

d. Bethel?

20 yrs Earlier Jacob met God at Bethel: House of God / COVENANT Promises

Saw the Stairway to Heaven 4000 yrs BEFORE there was a LED ZEPPELIN

“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 28.15

20 yrs LATER – Just weeks before this – God reminded Jacob of His House

“I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.”^{Genesis 31.13}

Not ONLY does Jacob put SLIP On Esau he Backs Away from BETHEL

It was just about 30 kms. AWAY – Could have EASILY GONE THERE

vs. 16, 17 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

MAYBE Good GRAZING? – Maybe Good WI-FI or SOCCER Team?

SPRINGS of Water – Jesus met Samaritan Woman at JACOB'S WELL

NOT Saying SUCCOTH is BAD Place but it is NOT BETHEL – House of God

Next Chapter – Jacob & FAMILY will PAY HIGH Price for GOING AWOL

God will PULL THEM back to Place of BLESSING...

God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.”^{Genesis 35.1}

Ask Child to THROW OUT Trash – Carries it to Door and Puts it Down There
 CALLED by God to Leave – Place, Relationship, Bad Habit, False Dream
 Half-Way OBEDIENCE is NOT HOLY OFFERING to Righteous JUDGE

Gospel – NO to SIN and YES to the HOLY SPIRIT / Putting OFF to Put ON!
 NO to OLD NATURE – YES to NEW NATURE / Dying & Rising with JESUS

There should be more Israel and less Jacob in each of us day by day. Iain Duguid

ESAU asks Brother what's been Happening in Last 20 years
 Interestingly NEGLECTS to Say, "Got WHOOPED by God Last Night...and oh,
 by the way, NOW you need to CALL ME ISRAEL!"

In REST of Book of GENESIS - Jacob 45 X's / Israel 23 X's

Jacob like ALL of Us in CHRIST is Still a WORK IN PROCESS...

Even in N.T. our HEROES have their MOMENTS

Peter – DENIES Jesus 3 X's and later SNUBS Gentiles at Lunch Counter

Paul - Great M/Theolog HERO – Parts Ways with Son of Encouragement

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
 Romans 7.15-25

2. Flashes of the New Nature: Jacob will be Israel

Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Jacob WRESTLED Saving Grace from Jesus Christ our Lord

FOG still SHROUDS Jacob's Fallen Heart > RAYS of Gospel Light Poke thru

God had BEGUN a Good Work in Jacob, and will fully Make him an ISRAEL

When we are emptied of ourselves, and all our resources are finished, then the battle is won and the Lord has gained His victory in our lives. Augustine

a. Leading

vs. 1-3 ...behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. 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

Organized FAMILY and SERVANTS – PREPARE for Big Meeting DAY

Jacob STEPS Up – NOT HIDING Behind WIVES, KIDS, ANIMALS

Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah... you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands." ...He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans...and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. So they inquired again of the LORD, "Is there a man still to come?" and the LORD said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." Then they ran and took him from there. 1 Samuel 10.17-23

LOOK who LEADS the WAY! JACOB gonna Take One for the TEAM!

Jacob will be LIGHTNING ROD for the BOLTS of 400 Esau's Men

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

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

When God talks of losing ourselves, he means only abandoning the clamor of self-will; once we have done that, he really gives us back all our personalities and boasts that when we are wholly his, we will be more ourselves than ever. C.S. Lewis

b. Wrestling

And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. Genesis 32.24

One of MOST DRAMATIC Moments in Whole Bible – Certainly of Life Jacob

WRESTLING Not ISOLATED Event > One Leads to ANOTHER

Same HEBREW word is INTENTIONALLY used in v. 4

v. 4 Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him

JACOB was BEATEN & BROKEN > Israel Birthed & Blessed

Jacob would NOT let go of GOD without GETTING Blessing,

NOW he will not let ESAU go without GIVING him the Blessing

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5.19

c. Testifying

Old JACOB BRAGGED of all HE DID – Israel credits God for ALL His Gifts

v. 5 Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.”

v. 11 Please accept my blessing...God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.”

Jacob’s BRASH, YOUTHFUL, Speech is Now SEASONED with GRACE

Jacob calls God ELOHIM/Creator – Not Yahweh His Covenant Name here

Esau – his OWN BROTHER is does NOT SHARE in that Covenant

v. 9 But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.”

SADLY we’ve NO Indication that ESAU is REDEEMED by SAVING GRACE

“I have enough” – Sounds SMUG – Self-Confident – Self-RELIANT Man’s Man

Gospel Truth – God has NO GRANDKIDS – YOU must be BORN AGAIN

Grandpa might be ABE, Papa may be ISAAC > You might be LOST IN SIN!

Jacob just RECENTLY Crossed OVER from DEATH to LIFE...

JACOB made Covenant with Father in Law LABAN, Swears to God...

If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac...

Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac... Genesis 31.42,53

When JACOB is GRIPPED by FEAR – Hearing Hoofbeats of Esau’s 400 Men

Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac...”

Genesis 32.9

LAST Verse of our Text shows NEW ISRAEL is PEEKING OUT of JACOB...

v. 20 There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel. **MY God...of Israel**

We are NOT YET what we WILL BE but we’re NO LONGER what WE WERE

d. The Face - DUST Settled from Wrastlin’ Jacob knew ON Holy Ground

Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.”

Genesis 32.30

The FACE of God - symbolized God's PRESENCE

Just as Esau’s Strong HAIRY Arms reminded Jacob of God’s Embrace at Peniel

So also Esau’s FACE with KIND SMILE of Peace reminded Jacob of God’s

v. 10 Jacob said, “...For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me.

NOT POSSIBLE Right with GOD and WRONG with PEOPLE

NEVER Fully LOVE People unless You RECEIVED Love of God in Christ

If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4.20,21

VALJEAN got it RIGHT in Les Miserables...

And remember The truth that once was spoken,
To love another person, Is to see the face of God.

Les Miserables Soundtrack Musical, 1987

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5.8

v. 18 And Jacob came safely... MISSION ACCOMPLISHED by God’s Grace

FIRST Steps will lead to FINAL Step into PRESENCE of GOD

When 1st M arrived in Hawaiian Islands on April 1820 > New ADVENT

Bringing Light and Hope to Beautiful Land covered by Dark Clouds

Clouds – Human Sacrifices, Slavery, Disease, and Oppressive Rule

Rev. Hiram Bingham chose Text for 1st Sermon preached in Hawaii

God’s Advent in Christ – even though it was Tropical April Day!

Bingham’s text was the Angel’s Christmas night greeting “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2.10)

“Christmas Gospel” Bingham preached 194 years ago

Still good news of great joy for all people

Good News – God makes Jacob right with ESAU

GREAT JOY – God makes all who Trust in Christ right with HIMSELF

Glad Tidings of Savior & Sovereign - Changes Hearts & Transform Kingdoms

from Beijing to the Distant Islands!

Genesis 33:¹ And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants. ²And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. ⁴But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” ⁶Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. ⁷Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor in the sight of my lord.” ⁹But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” ¹⁰Jacob said, “No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. ¹¹Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” Thus he urged him, and he took it. ¹²Then Esau said, “Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you.” ¹³But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the nursing flocks and herds are a care to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die. ¹⁴Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.” ¹⁵So Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord.” ¹⁶So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. ¹⁷But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. ¹⁸And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. ¹⁹And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. ²⁰There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.