

Divisions, Principles, & Citations

The Study of Genesis

Lesson #22: "Wrestling With God"

Genesis 32 & 33



Introduction

Genesis 27:41 (NIV) Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father [Isaac] had given him. He said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

Genesis 27:42 (NIV) When [their mother] Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you."

Genesis 27:43 (NIV) Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Harran."

Genesis 28:10 (NIV) Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran.

Genesis 28:11 (NIV) When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night . . . because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

Genesis 28:12 (NIV) He had a dream in which he saw a stairway [ladder] resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."

Genesis 28:19a (NIV) [Jacob] called that place Bethel

Genesis 31:3 (MSG) That is when God said to Jacob, "Go back home where you were born. I'll go with you."

Genesis 31:24 (ESV) But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

Genesis 31:29 (ESV) It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'

Division 1: Jacob's fears.

Genesis 32:1-24^a

Genesis 31:55 (NIV) Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then he left and returned home.

Genesis 27:40a You [Esau] will live by the sword and you will serve your brother.

Genesis 26:34-35 (NIV) When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Genesis 28:9 (NIV) so he [Esau] went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.

Genesis 22:17 (NIV) I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore . . .

Genesis 22:18 (NIV) and [through] your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Principle #1: Jacob has trust issues.

Genesis 27:13 (ESV) And behold, the Lord stood above [the ladder] and said, "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." . . . 14 . . . 15 . . .

Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance . . .

Romans 10:17 (NIV) "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ"

Psalms 56:3-4 (NIV) When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise — in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

Matthew 6:27 (ESV) And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

Matthew 6:34 (NIV) Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Philippians 4:6 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Hebrews 7:25 (NIV) Therefore, [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

Division 2: Jacob has a wrestling match with God; or life is a struggle.

Genesis 32:24^b-32

Matthew 26:26-28 (The Lord's Supper)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (The Lord's Supper)

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Principle #2: *The LORD is with us in our struggles.*

Romans 8:26 (ESV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Hebrews 7:25 (NIV) Therefore, he [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (ESV) "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Division 3: While Jacob (Israel) struggles, God intervenes.

Genesis 33:1-20

Principle #3: *Jacob continues to struggle with life, but God is sovereign and intervenes.*

Genesis 32:24 (ESV) But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

Genesis 3:17-19a (ESV) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you;

(3:17 continued) in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,

John 16:33 (NIV) "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jacob's Journey to Haran and Back

