


Genesis 32:29-32, 33:1-20

Jacob is wrestling with a spiritual entity that has come down as a tangible man. We believe its Jesus Christ.

- 29 And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray you, your name. And he said, why *is it that you don't ask for my name? And he blessed him there.* The man asked why does he want to know his name? What difference does it make to you?**
- 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.** You can't look upon the true face of God or it will kill you. God tones Himself down to a point where you can see Him and not die when He comes to earth in a tangible form. "Peniel" means "face of God".
- 31 And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.** "Penuel" is another name for "face of God". They are done wrestling, the sun has come up, and Jacob is limping.
- 32 Therefore the children of Israel eat not *of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, to this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.* It's still Jewish custom that they don't eat that piece of the thigh of animals because of this incident.**

Genesis 33:1-20: it's now 20 years later since Jacob stole Esau's birthright and did him wrong.

- 1 ¶ And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids.** Esau came with 400 men, no women or children, so it looks like Esau is ready for a confrontation. Jacob divides his group into 4 different distinct groups.
- 2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.** Jacob is still using military, worldly strategy: he takes his weakest people and puts them in the front, and then the others are in order of importance to him, the most important people being in the rear. He took the two handmaidens who he didn't even ask for in front, so if they get slaughtered, it doesn't matter to him. Leah is next, and then Rachel and Joseph behind them because he really cares for them.
- 3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.** Jacob gets in front of Joseph and Rachel, which is a credit to him. Jacob gets down on the ground, bows, gets up and moves to a different spot and repeats this 7 times, 7 being a number of completion. It shows Jacob is surrendering. Jacob is still using his worldly tactics and deceptions instead of trusting in the Lord. Use your brain when you have to, but trust in the Lord when He tells you to.
- 4 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.** What a total surprise for Jacob when his brother jumps off his horse and comes and kisses him.
- 5 ¶ And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who *are* those with you? And he said, The children which God has graciously given your servant.** Esau asks Who are all these people with you? and Jacob cowers to Esau, instead of saying he serves the Lord.
- 6 Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.** This is the equivalent to a modern day handshake.
- 7 And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves.** All of the family members come up to Esau and honor him as somebody special.
- 8 And he said, What *meanest* you by all this drove which I met? And he said, *These are* to find grace in the sight of my lord.** Esau asks why did he send all the animals before the people?
- 9 And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that you have unto thyself.** Jacob wanted Esau in a good frame of mind before meeting Jacob so Esau wouldn't kill him. Esau told Jacob to keep all his stuff, he don't need it.

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- 10 And Jacob said, Nay, I pray you, if now I have found grace in your sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen your face, as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.** Jacob says he saw God, and now he sees Esau, and all is good, please keep the presents of the animals as offered.
- 11 Take, I pray you, my blessing that is brought to you; because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took *it*.** Jacob insisted Esau keep the presents, and Esau complies. Jacob is relieved Esau didn't come at him with a sword.
- 12 And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before you.** Esau offers to go ahead of Jacob with his 400 men for protection because in those days bandits were everywhere.
- 13 And he said unto him, My lord knows that the children *are* tender, and the flocks and herds with young *are* with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die.** At this point, Jacob comes up with another plan because he doesn't really trust Esau yet. Now that Esau wants to travel with him, he states he has many children and young animals and if they are driven hard they will die.
- 14 Let my lord, I pray you, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goes before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir.** Jacob again tells Esau he is his servant. We are to be kind, loving, and considerate to all others, but we are not to fear them or serve them. We are servants of the King, not any men of the world. Esau lives at Seir. Jacob told Esau to go at his pace, and Jacob will go at his slower pace, and they'll meet up at Seir.
- 15 And Esau said, Let me now leave with you *some* of the folk that *are* with me. And he said, What needeth it? Let me find grace in the sight of my lord.** Esau wants to meet Jacob's group, but Jacob still doesn't trust him, so Jacob doesn't want Esau to meet his group. When you live a life of scheming and deception like Jacob did, it is very hard to trust others. It is a difficult mindset to get out of. When you live trying to get the others before they get you, you think they are out to get you, too. Jacob always had an ulterior motive to con the other person. This type of attitude needs be changed spiritually. There are some people out to get you, but don't let them and witness to them instead. Jacob had no intention of going to Seir.
- 16 ¶ So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir.** Esau went home.
- 17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.** Jacob when to Succoth instead and built shelter for his animals.
- 18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which *is* in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.** Jacob moved again.
- 19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money.** Jacob made a big mistake here by disobeying the Lord and going to a different city.
- 20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.** "Elelohe" means "God". Jacob built an altar to God here, in a place where he's not supposed to be, and he gets into big trouble later on.
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