

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
GENESIS 31 - JACOB RETURNS TO CANAAN, GENESIS 32 - JACOB'S
NAME CHANGED TO ISRAEL, GENESIS 33 – JACOB'S GIFT FOR ESAU
AND THE BROTHERS MAKE PEACE

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of Jacob and his return home to Canaan. The story of how Jacob and Esau make peace and Jacob's name is changed to Israel. I would suggest for study that you find a map of Canaan and Gilead so the children can see the distance Jacob traveled with all of his family and flocks. Sometimes the best maps are in the Bible.

Genesis 31

¹And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory (Glory means the effects of wealth). (Do you see this was the same attitude as Esau; also the wealth they had received they think it was from their father but it was from God. We should never forget anything we have is a blessing from God).

²And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before (Laban's attitude had changed towards Jacob.).

³And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

⁴And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, ⁵And said unto them, I see your father's countenance (his facial expression or approval or support), that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me (Laban is jealous now even though he knows better).

⁶And ye know that with all my power I have served your father. ⁷And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times (many times); but God suffered (allowed) him not to hurt me (God did not allow Laban to do me evil).

⁸If he said thus, The speckled (spots) shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked (striped) shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked (Laban constantly changed his mind when he saw Jacob was being blessed).

⁹Thus God (God was the one that was bringing about the results in the life of Jacob) hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. ¹⁰And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grisled (sprinkled with spots).

¹¹And the angel of God (Christ) spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. ¹²And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.

¹³I am the God of Bethel (meant house of God), where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred (remember the stone Jacob slept on in the last lesson, he poured oil or "annointed" the stone and made a memorial to God. Also this is where Christ was revealed to Jacob as Jehovah or the Eternal or Everlasting.).

¹⁴And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? ¹⁵Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money.

¹⁶For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.

¹⁷Then Jacob rose up, and set his sons and his wives upon camels; ¹⁸And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padanaram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan (This was all directed by the Divine Hand of God; it was not stealing).

¹⁹And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's (These "images" were family idols or figurines they had used in family worship showing how the idolatry of Babylonia was still a part of Laban's family. Laban believed in superstition from the years in Babylonia and so Rachel and Leah had been raised this way but these were false gods which were not gods at all, they could do nothing to help them or anyone).

²⁰And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian ("stole away" means Jacob outwitted Laban), in that he told him not that he fled. ²¹So he fled with all that he had; and he rose up, and passed over the river (The Euphrates River and is going from East to West back to Canaan and headed first for Gilead where Laban caught up with Jacob.), and set his face toward the mount Gilead (Means "perpetual fountain").

²²And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled. ²³And he took his brethren with him ("brethren" is a general term here), and pursued after him seven days' journey; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead (There was no such place but Moses is calling it what it became later). ²⁴And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.

²⁵Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount (hills): and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mount of Gilead.

²⁶And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me (how have you outwitted me), and carried away my daughters, as captives taken with the sword?

²⁷Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me (stole my idols which were in my heart); and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp (not really Laban's intent)?

²⁸And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons (means grandsons) and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing.

²⁹It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad. ³⁰And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods (Laban is saying I understand why you wanted to leave but why take my gods/idols)?

³¹And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me.

³²With whomsoever thou findest thy gods (idols), let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them.

³³And Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found them not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent.

³⁴Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture (the saddle of the camel), and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. ³⁵And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women is upon me. And he searched but found not the images.

³⁶And Jacob was wroth, and chode (pleaded) with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What is my trespass? what is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me?

³⁷Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set it here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both.

³⁸This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten (Jacob was about 90 years old when Joseph was born. Jacob is saying I took care of your flock, was good to you and honest so no need to be mad.).

³⁹That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. ⁴⁰Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me (the heat from the drought), and the frost by

night (contrasting to the cold at night by the frost); and my sleep departed from mine eyes (A shepherd was away from home for many weeks at a time. Jacob is explaining even though I loved Rachel so much, it was not easy but because I loved her it seemed just like a few years.).

⁴¹Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages (deceived me many times) ten times (Jacob is saying I stayed with you essentially for Rachel. God is putting Jacob through the fire and that is how gold is formed and we will also to be "refined" by God. This is what the first love will do, can go through much suffering because of the joy that was ahead of him. That is how it is with God; He must be our "first love"; we must go through some suffering for the joy which lies ahead of us, The Kingdom of God, and we are to count the suffering as joy, Romans 8:17, IPeter 4:13.)

⁴²Except the God of my father (not Laban for he had many gods/idols), the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac (fear for the God Jacob worshipped), had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight (When God told Laban not to say anything good or bad to Jacob in the dream).

⁴³And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and these cattle are my cattle, and all that thou seest is mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born?

⁴⁴Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant (solemnize a covenant), I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee. ⁴⁵And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar.

⁴⁶And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap.

⁴⁷And Laban called it Jegarsahadutha (means a pile of stones as a witness between Jacob and Laban): but Jacob called it Galeed (Jegarsahadutha is called "Galeed" in Hebrew). ⁴⁸And Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed;

Say - Note: This is why Israel, the 12 sons of Jacob, which became tribes from Jacob, always went back to idolatry because they had many gods all along even though they believed in the Most High God, they had many other gods which were not gods. We should make sure we do not follow in their path.

⁴⁹And Mizpah; for he said, The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another (talking to the God of Gods here).

⁵⁰If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt take other wives beside my daughters, no man is with us; see, God is witness betwixt me and thee.

⁵¹And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and behold this pillar, which I have cast betwixt me and thee:

⁵²This heap be witness, and this pillar be witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm.

⁵³The God of Abraham (The True God), and the God of Nahor (not the true God for Nahor was an idolater), the God of their father (he worshipped both the True God and false gods), judge betwixt us. And Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac.

⁵⁴Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount (part of the covenant feast).

⁵⁵And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters (kissed his grandsons and granddaughters), and blessed them: and Laban departed, and returned unto his place (this is the end of Laban).

Genesis 32

Say - Verses 1-2 below are of Jacob's vision at Mahanaim.

¹And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him (Messengers of God to show God was with him and was protecting him.). ²And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim (means "2 camps", see verse 7 below).

Say - 32:3-5 is the desire of Jacob to reconcile with Esau.

³And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom (remember Esau was an Edomite). (Below is what Jacob's messengers were to say to Esau.) ⁴And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau (Jacob recognizes Esau as his older brother; remember we are to be "wise as serpents and harmless as a dove" in our dealings with anyone.); Thy servant (showing humility here) Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now: ⁵And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord (meaning Esau), that I may find grace in thy sight.

Say - 32:6 is the approach of Esau.

(a few days later) ⁶And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him.

Say - 32:7-8 is the gift from Jacob to Esau.

⁷Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands (two camps, verse 2); ⁸And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape (We will see Jacob turned to God, he did not give up, read on.).

Say - 32:9-12 is Jacob's prayer of humility to God.

⁹And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: (Jacob shows more humility to God) ¹⁰I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands (We should not go to God and say I deserve this or that but we should say and feel that we don't deserve His mercy just as Jacob said for the Bible tells us "God resists the proud" James 4:6, I Peter 5:5. When we come to God in humility, God will soften the hand of the wicked). ¹¹Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. ¹²And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Say - 32:13-23 is of the gift Jacob prepared to give Esau.

¹³And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother (trying to pacify Esau); ¹⁴Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams,

¹⁵Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals (This is quite a gift for Jacob had been abundantly blessed by God. Also the rule in the Middle East is if you can get them to take your gift, they will do you no harm.).

¹⁶And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove (flock or herd) by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove (this was all deliberately planned).

¹⁷And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, Whose art thou? and whither goest thou? and whose are these before thee? ¹⁸Then thou shalt say, They be thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, also he is behind us.

¹⁹And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves (flocks, herds), saying, On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him.

²⁰And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face;

peradventure he will accept of me (Do we see Jacob is a peacemaker just as all God's people should be today).

²¹So went the present over before him: and himself lodged that night in the company.

²²And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants (order of importance, his wives first then the maidservants; this was not a put down to the maidservants), and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok (Jabbok means "emptying" and it is a stream which divides the mountain range of Gilead and empties into the Jordan River). ²³And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.

Say - 32:24-32 Jacob wrestled with God all night and his name is changed to Israel.

²⁴And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man (another name for God) with him until the breaking of the day (This would have been an awesome sight to see for they wrestled all night long on a human level. If He had come as God it would not have been fair.).

²⁵And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. ²⁶And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh (it was now dawn). And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me (We should understand here that the wrestling was for Jacob to realize he was without God. We all must go through this with every trial we face everyday. Jacob knew he had not wrestled with an ordinary man.).

²⁷And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob (Of course "the man" knew his name.).

²⁸And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob (means "supplanter"), but Israel (means "God prevails" "God commands orders or rules"): for as a prince (commander or chief of soldiers) hast thou power (contended or argued with Esau in the womb and received his name Jacob) with God and with men, and hast prevailed (Jacob had power or contended and won the birthright over Esau; he had contended for the blessing and got it; he had contended with Laban and succeeded but now he had contended with God and failed, hence his name was changed to Israel. God was teaching Jacob to depend on God and that is what His people are to do today. God became Jacob's Ruler or Shepherd and God is to be our Ruler and Shepherd for He will lead us in the right paths for eternal life. And "he that endures to the end shall be saved"; that is what we are to do; PREVAIL WITH GOD, or succeed, be victorious and persevere and overcome sin with God to the end and we shall be saved, Matthew 24:13. Now we are in the flesh and still go through the struggles but someday we will have the spiritual name Israel, "one who prevailed" or

succeeded.). The name Jacob was used for his natural seed and Israel is used for spiritual Jacob and spiritual seed or descendants of which you are a part of. It's a great story of TRUTH.

²⁹And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. ³⁰And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel (means face of God): for I have seen God face to face (not man), and my life is preserved (not only then but the future).

³¹And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted (limped) upon his thigh. ³²Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank (the nerve or tendon passing through the thigh), which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he (God) touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank (As we can see the children of Israel (formerly Jacob) knew who God/the one who became Christ was but we will see in our future study they became spiritually blinded.).

Genesis 33

Say - 33:1-17- Jacob and Esau make peace.

¹And 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.

²And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.

³And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother (Jacob humbled himself as if to a king and God softened the heart of Esau. What a good example for God's people everywhere.).

⁴And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept (A total turn around; only God can produce this turn around.). ⁵And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant (Jacob has fully repented of the deceptiveness he had done to Esau; Jacob was a totally different man from 20 years earlier.).

⁶Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves (Total respect to Esau.). ⁷And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves.

⁸And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met (this camp sent before)? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord (Jacob had to regain the trust and bring an offering to Esau because he had fallen out

of grace with Esau and this is why God had Israel bring offerings of repentance to Him.).

⁹And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself (Esau had been blessed also; he was not a poor man). ¹⁰And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me (After 20 long years, Jacob is saying I am so excited to see you it is as if I have seen the face of God himself.).

¹¹Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

¹²And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee.

¹³And he said unto him, My lord knoweth 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 (They would not be able to keep up to the speed the horses could go.).

¹⁴Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir (I will go my pace and you go your pace.). ¹⁵And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it (what for)? let me find grace in the sight of my lord. ¹⁶So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir .

¹⁷And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house (the first place we read of a "house" for a patriarch), and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth (Succoth means booth).

¹⁸And Jacob came to (in peace to) Shalem, a city of Shechem (Shalem means "peace" and was a city of Shechem which was 34 miles north of Jerusalem.), which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city (Try and find a map so we can get the distance and relationship to Jerusalem. Try and find a map with the Jabok River on it. Usually there are good maps in the Bible.).

¹⁹And he bought a parcel of a field (even though it was his by God's divine hand for Jacob was given Canaan), where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor (a Hivite prince in Canaan), Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. ²⁰And he erected there an altar, and called it EleloheIsrael (to the God of Israel).

Memory Verse

Thy name is no more Jacob but Israel.

Genesis 32:28

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS/YOUTH BELOW

JACOB RETURNS TO THE LAND OF CANAAN, JACOB'S NAME IS
CHANGED TO ISRAEL, JACOB AND ESAU MAKE PEACE

IT WAS TIME FOR JACOB, HIS FAMILY AND HIS HERDS OF CATTLE, CAMELS, SHEEP AND DONKEYS TO RETURN TO CANAAN. GOD TOLD JACOB "RETURN UNTO THE LAND OF THY FATHERS, ABRAHAM AND ISAAC, AND I WILL BE WITH YOU".

JACOB GATHERED RACHEL AND LEAH AND TOLD THEM HE HAD SERVED THEIR FATHER, LABAN, WELL. UNDER HIS CARE, GOD HAD GREATLY INCREASED LABAN'S CATTLE, DONKEYS, AND SHEEP. JACOB HAD SPENT MANY WEEKS AS LABAN'S SHEPHERD OUT IN THE HOT, HOT DESERT SUN AND THE FROSTY NIGHTS CARING FOR HIS ANIMALS.

RACHEL AND LEAH SAID, "WHATEVER GOD HAS TOLD YOU, WE MUST DO". JACOB ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING AND DID NOT TELL LABAN HE WAS LEAVING AND PUT HIS SONS AND WIVES UPON THE CAMELS AND TOGETHER WITH HIS HERDS LEFT FOR THE LAND OF CANAAN. SOON THEY CROSSED THE GREAT EUPHRATES RIVER AND HEADED FOR GILEAD AND THAT IS WHERE LABAN CAUGHT UP WITH JACOB.

LABAN WANTED TO KNOW WHY JACOB HAD TAKEN OFF SECRETLY AND LABAN SAID SOMEONE HAD TAKEN HIS GODS OR IDOLS. JACOB WENT ABOUT SEARCHING FOR THE IDOLS FOR LABAN BUT HE COULD NOT FIND THEM. RACHEL HAD TAKEN THE IDOLS AND HAD HIDDEN THEM UNDER THE SADDLE OF THE CAMELS.

THE GODS OR IDOLS OF LABAN WERE FIGURINES SHOWING HOW THE IDOLATRY AND SUPERSTITION OF BABYLON WAS STILL A PART OF LABAN'S FAMILY WORSHIP. JUST LIKE US, LABAN, RACHEL AND LEAH NEEDED TO "COME OUT OF BABYLON" AND THEIR PAGAN CUSTOMS. THE GODS, WHICH WERE NOT GODS BUT IDOLS, COULD NOT HELP THEM IN ANYWAY.

JACOB TOLD LABAN HE HAD STAYED WITH HIM AS A SHEPHERD FOR RACHEL HIS WIFE. JACOB CONTINUED, "THE MOST HIGH GOD HAS

SEEN MY AFFLICTION AND LABOR OF MY HANDS" FROM SERVING YOU AND IT IS TIME TO RETURN TO MY HOMETOWN OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC. SOON JACOB AND LABAN CAME TO AN AGREEMENT OR COVENANT THAT JACOB WOULD CARE FOR HIS DAUGHTERS AND GRANDCHILDREN AND IN THE MORNING LABAN KISSED THEM ALL GOOD-BYE AND BLESSED THEM AND LABAN RETURNED TO HIS HOME.

JACOB AND HIS FAMILY AND HERDS OF CATTLE CONTINUED ON THEIR WAY TO CANAAN. GOD SENT ANGELS OR MESSENGERS OF GOD TO SHOW JACOB HE WAS WITH HIM AND WOULD PROTECT HIM JUST AS HE HAD PROMISED.

NOW JACOB WANTED TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIS BROTHER, ESAU FOR IT HAD BEEN TWENTY LONG YEARS. JACOB SENT SOME OF HIS SERVANTS OR SHEPHERDS TO MEET ESAU. JACOB TOLD HIS SHEPHERDS TO TELL ESAU, "THY SERVANT JACOB HAS BEEN WITH LABAN ALL OF THESE YEARS AND I HAVE OXEN, DONKEYS, FLOCKS AND SERVANTS AND I WANT TO FIND GRACE OR PARDON FROM HIM"

SOON JACOB'S SERVANTS RETURNED AND THEY HAD FOUND ESAU AND HE HAD 400 MEN WITH HIM. JACOB BECAME STRESSED AND BEGAN TO WORRY SO HE PRAYED TO GOD IN HUMILITY JUST AS WE SHOULD PRAY TO GOD. JACOB SAID TO GOD, "I AM NOT WORTHY OF ALL OF YOUR MERCIES AND THE TRUTH WHICH YOU HAVE SHOWN TO ME". "DELIVER ME I PRAY FROM THE HAND OF MY BROTHER, ESAU, FOR I FEAR HIM THAT HE MIGHT COME AND FIGHT WITH ME AND MY FAMILY".

NOW IT WAS TIME TO PREPARE A GIFT FOR ESAU OF 200 GOATS, 200 LAMBS AND RAMS, 30 CAMELS, 40 COWS, TEN BULLS, 20 DONKEYS AND TEN HORSES. GOD HAD ABUNDANTLY BLESSED JACOB AND HAD INCREASED HIS HERDS GREATLY.

JACOB'S SERVANTS DELIVERED THE FLOCKS AND HERDS TO ESAU AND THEY WERE TO TELL HIM JACOB WAS BEHIND THE FLOCKS AND HERDS BUT THIS WAS A GIFT FOR ESAU AND JACOB IS HOPING YOU WILL ACCEPT THEM. NOW IT WAS TIME TO CROSS THE RIVER

JABBOK, A RIVER WHICH DIVIDES THE MOUNTAIN RANGES OF GILEAD AND SOON NIGHTTIME CAME.

JACOB WAS LEFT ALONE THAT NIGHT AND WRESTLED ALL NIGHT WITH GOD UNTIL DAWN OF THE NEXT MORNING. SOON GOD SAID, "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?" MY NAME IS JACOB. GOD SAID, "YOUR NAME IS NO MORE JACOB BUT ISRAEL". THE NAME ISRAEL MEANS "GOD PREVAILS OR IT IS GOD WHO RULES OR LEADS OUR LIVES FROM NOW ON".

GOD BECAME JACOB'S RULER OR SHEPHERD AND GOD IS TO BE OUR RULER AND SHEPHERD. GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL KEEP US ON THE PATH TO ETERNAL LIFE AND IT IS THOSE WHO WALK WITH GOD UNTIL HE RETURNS FOR HIS PEOPLE, WHO WILL BE SAVED. THE NAME JACOB WAS FOR HIS NATURAL BORN FAMILY BUT THE NAME ISRAEL WAS FOR SPIRITUAL JACOB OF WHICH YOU ARE A PART.

THE NEXT MORNING JACOB LOOKED UP AND SAW ESAU WITH HIS 400 MEN COMING AND JACOB BOWED TO ESAU 7 TIMES TO SHOW HIS HUMBLeness AS IF TO A KING AND THIS SOFTENED THE HEART OF ESAU. ESAU RAN TO MEET JACOB AND HUGGED HIM AND THEY BOTH WEPT FOR THEY HAD BEEN APART 20 LONG YEARS. THE HARDENED HEART OF ESAU HAD BEEN SOFTENED BY GOD; ONLY GOD CAN SOFTEN THE HARDEST HEARTS OF MANKIND. SOON ALL OF JACOB'S FAMILY CAME AND THEIR CHILDREN AND BOWED THEMSELVES BEFORE ESAU.

ESAU ASKED JACOB, "WHAT WERE ALL THE CATTLE, DONKEYS, SHEEP AND GOATS SENT BEFORE HIM?" JACOB ANSWERED, "I WANTED TO FIND GRACE OR PARDON AT YOUR SIGHT FOR I HAD LOST THE TRUST OF YOU AND I WANTED TO REGAIN YOUR TRUST IN ME".

ESAU SAID, "I HAVE ENOUGH MY BROTHER, KEEP WHAT IS YOURS". BUT JACOB WANTED ESAU TO TAKE HIS GIFT FOR "I HAVE SEEN YOUR FACE AS THOUGH I HAVE SEEN THE FACE OF GOD AND YOU ARE PLEASED WITH ME". "TAKE MY BLESSING GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY GIVEN ME AND ESAU EVENTUALLY TOOK THE GIFT AND THEY WENT ON THEIR WAY".

"ESAU, YOU GO BEFORE ME AND I WILL FOLLOW BECAUSE MY CHILDREN ARE YOUNG AND TENDER AND CANNOT KEEP UP WITH YOUR MEN FOR YOU WILL TRAVEL FASTER THAN WE CAN.

JACOB/ISREAL JOURNEYED ON TO SUCCOTH AND BUILT HIM A HOUSE AND MADE "BOOTH" FOR HIS CATTLE AND THAT IS WHY SUCCOTH MEANS BOOTH OR A TEMPORARY DWELLING PLACE.

JACOB/ISRAEL SOON CAME TO SHALEM IN PEACE WHICH WAS 34 MILES NORTH OF JERUSALEM IN THE LAND OF CANAAN. THERE JACOB BOUGHT A FIELD AND SPREAD HIS TENT UNDER THE HAND OF A HIVITE PRINCE FROM THE LAND OF CANAAN AND MADE AN ALTER TO GIVE THANKS TO THE "GOD OF ISRAEL".

NOTE: MANY TIMES IN THE BIBLE THE TERM JACOB OR ISRAEL IS USED INTERCHANGEABLY BUT MEAN THE SAME THING.

AND ESAU RAN TO MEET HIM, AND EMBRACED
HIM, AND FELL ON HIS NECK AND KISSED HIM
AND THEY WEPT.
GENESIS 33:4

