

Read Genesis 32:1-2

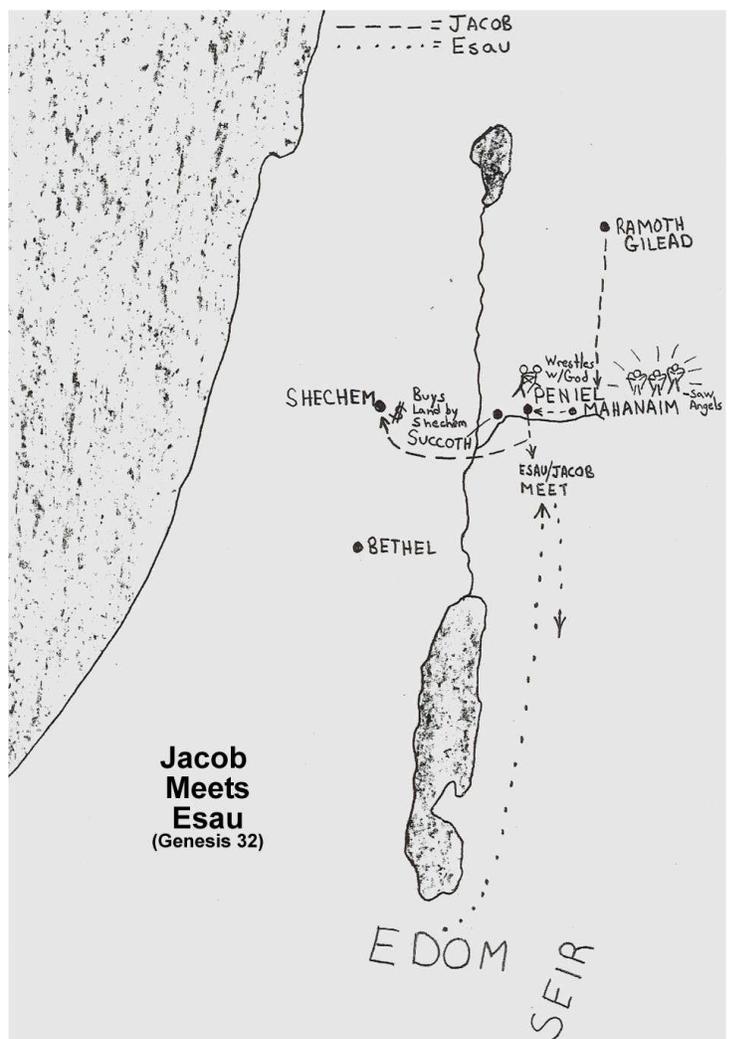
- As we begin to look at this chapter, remember what had happened twenty years earlier. Why had Jacob left home?
- When Jacob had left home, he had the opportunity to see God's angels, and as he returns he once again sees God's angels. What is different this time though?
- After seeing the angels, Jacob names the place *Mahanaim*. How does that name help to describe what Jacob saw?

Read Genesis 32:3-5

- Jacob sent a message to his brother who was now living in Seir. What were the two parts of his message?
- Why do you think Jacob included the information about all his animals and servants?

Read Genesis 32:6-8

- Why is Jacob filled with great fear when he hears about Esau's coming to meet him?
- What is Jacob's solution?



Read Genesis 32:9-12

- “Throughout the last few chapters of Genesis, we have repeatedly observed attitudes and actions of Jacob that we would not want to imitate. Not so here. Jacob’s prayer to God before meeting Esau is a model prayer that can teach us much that will improve our prayer lives” (*People’s Bible: Genesis, p.266*). Note the parts of his prayer in each verse and how this is a good model prayer for us.
 - V.9—
 - V.10—
 - V.11—
 - V.12—

Read Genesis 32:13-23

- Jacob here sends a gift to his brother that included a total of 550 animals. Why did Jacob separate them into separate herds?

Read Genesis 32:24-32

- **The Setting:** “Jacob and his caravan had reached the Jabbok, a stream that flows into the Jordan from the east just about midway between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. After leading family and flocks south across the Jabbok under cover of darkness, Jacob himself went back across the stream, apparently to spend some time alone with the Lord in prayer. As he began once again to pour out his heart to God, he suddenly became aware that out of the darkness someone had grabbed hold of him and was wrestling him to the ground. The mysterious struggle continued—for hours—until the first streaks of dawn appeared in the eastern sky.” (*People’s Bible: Genesis, p. 270*)
- “In commenting on this passage, Martin Luther said, “This text is one of the most obscure in the Old Testament.” Although there are elements of this wrestling match that are difficult to understand and to explain, there are some basic truths that are immediately clear.” (*People’s Bible: Genesis, p. 270*)

- In verse 24 we are told, “Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.” What is strange about this situation?
- Why did the man ask, “What is your name?” (v.27)
- Note the name change.
- How can a mere mortal become an Israel?
- Note once again how Jacob names the place because of the event.
Peniel/Penuel = Face of God
- Note Jacob’s memento of his victory with God. Also note how this was remembered by the people who came after Jacob.
- What ought we to do when we are in situations where it seems to us like God is against us?

Read Genesis 33:1-3

- How did Jacob display a spirit of love and concern for his family when they went to meet Esau?
- Explain what Jacob is doing.
- How old were Jacob and Esau as they met here?

Understanding Jacob's Age

- Genesis 47:9 – Jacob was 130 years old when he met Pharaoh in Egypt
- Genesis 45:11 – There were 5 more years of famine after Jacob came to Egypt
- Genesis 41:29-30 – There was a total of 7 good years and 7 years of famine
- Genesis 41:46 – Joseph was 30 years old when he entered Pharaoh's service

130 Jacob's age when entering Egypt
-9 (5 famine years remaining = Joseph in Pharaoh's service for 9 years so far)
-30 age when Joseph entered Pharaoh's service
91 Jacob's age at Joseph's birth

- Genesis 31:38 – Jacob spent 20 years with Laban
- Genesis 29:27 – Jacob's marriages happened 7 years into those 20 years

Since Joseph was born while they were still living in Haran, Jacob had to have been in his 70s when he first came to Haran.

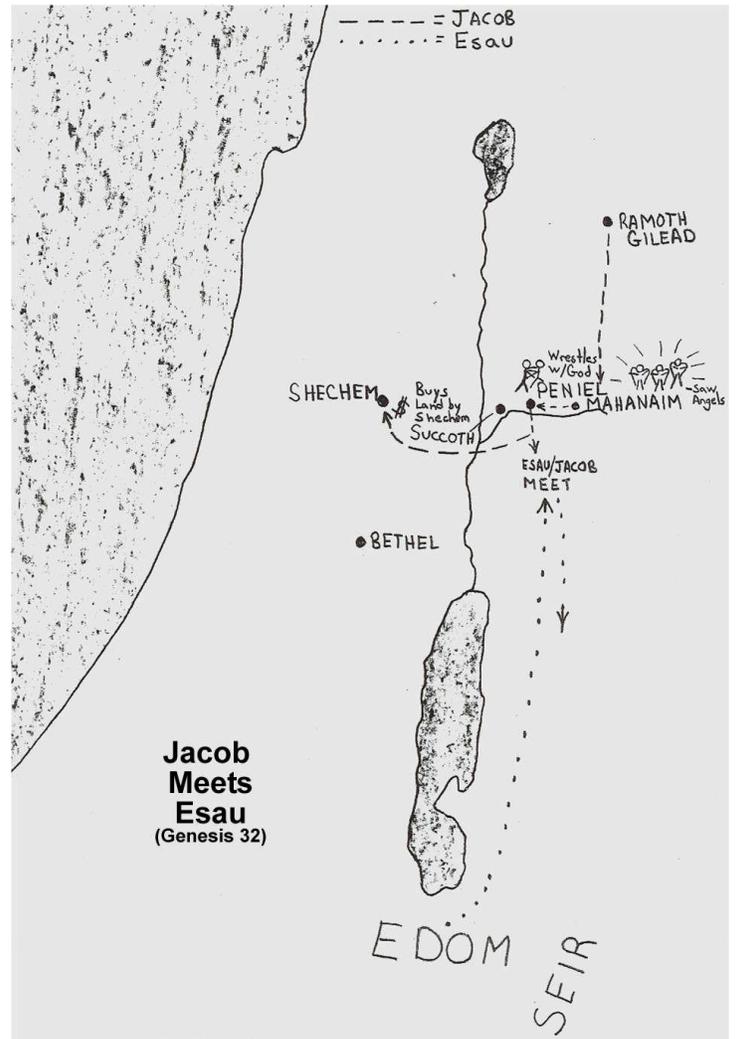
Read Genesis 33:4-11

- Explain this comment made in the People's Bible Commentary: "Esau saw more than a dozen children with their mothers and wondered out loud, 'Who are these people?'"
(People's Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.274)
- Note the change in Jacob since the last time he saw his brother: "Instead of wanting to *deprive* Esau of a blessing, Jacob almost had to force Esau to *accept* this tangible evidence of the Lord's blessing."
(People's Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.275)
- Note the terms that Jacob uses to refer to himself. What is interesting about that?

Read Genesis 33:12-20

- Why did Jacob decline Esau's offer to remain with him?
- (verse 19) Why did Jacob buy property at Shechem and not move back in with Isaac?
- "There are two interesting sidelights in later Israelite history to the real estate transaction recorded here. Several centuries later, after the Israelites had occupied the land of Canaan, they buried Joseph's mummified remains in Shechem, as he had requested (50:25; Joshua 24:32). And one of the most interesting conversations the Lord Jesus had was with a Samaritan woman whom he met at a well in Sychar (Shechem), on the piece of property Jacob had bought (John 4:5)."

(People's Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.278)



- (verse 20) What is interesting about the name that Jacob gives to the altar that he built (*El-Elohe-Israel* or *God, the God of Israel*)?

When the Bible uses the name "Israel" who is it referring to?