

“Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau”

Genesis 32:1-21

JACOB ENCOUNTERS THE ANGELS OF GOD—AGAIN! v.1-2

1. The angels of God met Jacob on his way. v.1
2. This experience has a direct connection with Jacob’s dream in Genesis 28:10-17
 - When Jacob left the promised land he encountered angels. Gen. 28:12 Bethel “house of God”
-God spoke to him: I am with you; I will keep you wherever you go; I will bring you back to this land. 28:15
3. When Jacob saw the angels he said, “This is God’s camp!” v.2

JACOB’S SITUATION. v.3-8

1. Jacob was cornered by the circumstances of his life.
 - He could not go back to Laban. 31:52 ‘heap of witness’
 - To get home, Jacob had to travel through Edom—where his brother Esau lived! “Esau” 9 X’s in our text
2. Jacob prepared to meet Esau. v.3-5
 - He sent messengers ahead of him to greet Esau. v.3
 - It seems he tried to appease Esau with his words. v.4: ‘...my lord Esau...your servant Jacob’
 - It seems he tried to appease Esau with his wealth. v.5
3. Jacob faced a great threat. v.6-8
 - The messengers reported back: Esau is coming to meet Jacob—with 400 men! v.6
 - Jacob was afraid and divided his resources—hoping to save at least some. v.7-8

JACOB’S PRAYER. v.9-12

1. Jacob recalled God’s promise. v.9
 - Jacob affirmed God’s sovereign plan for his life. (“O LORD, who said to me...” Ref. 31:3; 28:13-15)
 2. Jacob acknowledged his unworthiness. v.10
 - Jacob affirmed God’s kindness. (lovingkindness, faithfulness, blessing)
 3. Jacob asked for deliverance. v.11
 - Jacob acknowledged his own fear and vulnerability.
 4. Jacob recalled God’s promise again. v.12
 - But You said... similar to v.9. Jacob affirmed God’s covenant plan for him and his family.
- Praying the promises of God from the Bible. We do this not to ‘remind’ Him, but to ‘re-mind’ us.

A ‘PRESENT’ FOR ESAU. v.13-21

1. Jacob prepared a great and costly ‘present’ for his brother: over 550 animals of breeding age. v.13-15
2. Jacob organized the animals so they would come in droves. v.16-20a
3. It was a gift... with strings attached. Jacob was hoping to appease his offended brother. Ref. v.20b-21

APPLICATION

1. The events in this story happened around 1800 BC. Moses wrote Genesis to Israel 400 years later.
→ Moses wrote Genesis to show that leaving Egypt and possessing Canaan was God’s plan for Israel.
 - Their situation: after 40 years wandering in desert, about to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land.
 - How did the original audience hear this story?
2. All Scripture ultimately points to Jesus Christ and God’s plan of redemption through the cross.
 - How does this story reflect our salvation and the gospel? Jacob’s prayer is a summary of the Gospel:
-God promised mankind a great future in relationship with Him.
-We gave up the promise because of our sin (rebellion) against God—and are unworthy of His goodness.
-We face a true threat—sin’s power (we cannot break) and sin’s consequences (we cannot escape).
-God gave man another promise—that we can be saved through faith in His Son Jesus Christ.
 - Our attempts to appease God are mis-guided and unsuccessful. See the wording in v.20b.
3. Genesis was also written for us. Your situation...