

BOOK OF GENESIS

GENESIS 32

VERSES 1-8	ADDED TEXTUAL NOTES, QUESTIONS, OTHER
<p>¹ Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ²When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is the camp of God!” So he named that place Mahanaim.</p> <p>³ Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. ⁴He instructed them: “This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: ‘Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. ⁵I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes.’”</p> <p>⁶When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, “We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.”</p> <p>⁷In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well. ⁸He thought, “If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape.”</p>	<p>Vv. 1-2 – God assures Jacob that He is with him. IMPORTANT!</p> <p>Mahanaim – Literally “Place of 2 Camps”</p> <p>What might this indicate?</p> <p>V. 3 – Why might Jacob send messengers?</p> <p>Vv. 6-7 – Jacob is afraid. But what was He just assured of?!</p> <p>V. 7 – Literally, he divided the people who were with him into “two camps.” What is ironic about this decision in light of verses 1-2?</p>

BOOK OF GENESIS

GENESIS 32

VERSES 9-12	
<p>⁹Then Jacob prayed, “O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, ‘Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,’ ¹⁰I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. ¹¹Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. ¹²But you have said, ‘I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.’”</p>	<p>V. 9 – Jacob does something important. Why is this promising?</p> <p>V. 10 – What does he acknowledge about his recent decision?</p>
Verses 13-21	
<p>¹³He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau: ¹⁴two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵thirty female camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. ¹⁶He put them in the care of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, “Go ahead of me, and keep some space between the herds.”</p> <p>¹⁷He instructed the one in the lead: “When my brother Esau meets you and</p>	<p>V. 13 – So much promise in the verses before, but all for what? What does Jacob do here?</p>

BOOK OF GENESIS

GENESIS 32

<p>asks, ‘Who do you belong to, and where are you going, and who owns all these animals in front of you?’ ¹⁸ then you are to say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and he is coming behind us.’”</p> <p>¹⁹ He also instructed the second, the third and all the others who followed the herds: “You are to say the same thing to Esau when you meet him. ²⁰ And be sure to say, ‘Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.’” For he thought, “I will pacify him with these gifts I am sending on ahead; later, when I see him, perhaps he will receive me.” ²¹ So Jacob’s gifts went on ahead of him, but he himself spent the night in the camp.</p>	<p>V. 20 – Were these gifts of repentance?</p>
<p>Verses 22-32</p>	
<p>²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”</p> <p>But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”</p>	<p>Vv. 22-32 – Let’s make sense of this narrative. Based off of what we know of Jacob’s story and character so far, including here in this chapter, why would a divine human have to come and wrestle Jacob?</p>

BOOK OF GENESIS

GENESIS 32

<p>²⁷ The man asked him, “What is your name?”</p> <p>“Jacob,” he answered.</p> <p>²⁸ Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”</p> <p>²⁹ Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.</p> <p>³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”</p> <p>³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob’s hip was touched near the tendon.</p>	
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