

Genesis 32

King James Version (KJV)

32 And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

²And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim. (Mahanaim = Two hosts or two camps – angels and people)

³And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom. (Edom = red) (Seir = hairy)

⁴And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now: (Laban was also Esau's uncle)

⁵And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and women servants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight. (Jacob wants peace with Esau. He has his wives and children with him He can't afford a fight with Esau and his men)

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. (Esau is coming with an army. Esau threatened to kill Jacob, twenty years earlier)

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; (He should have trusted that God would protect him. On the other hand, a 400 man army is worth taking note of. God expects us to take action when we need to)

⁸And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.

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 turned to God for help instead of buying mercenary armies and weapons. He was a wise man)

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. (He has prepared as best he could; but did he need to, with God's promise to help him?)

¹¹ Deliver 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. (He's afraid Esau will kill him and his whole family. He knows that he is no shape to fight a war with Esau's army)

¹² And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

¹³ And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother; (Diplomacy is a good idea)

¹⁴ Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams,

¹⁵ Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals. (Jacob is very rich, because of God's blessings)

¹⁶ And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove.

¹⁷ And 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?

¹⁸ Then 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. (Jacob is trying to have peace with Esau)

¹⁹ And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him. (He's overdoing it a bit)

²⁰ And 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.

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

²² And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. (Jabbok = the emptying – this brook emptied into the River Jordan)

²³ And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had. (He sent his family over the brook to separate them from any danger from Esau)

²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

²⁵ And 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. (Possibly threw out his sciatic nerve – sciatica)

²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. (Jacob knows who this is)

²⁷ And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. (Jacob = the contender, the heel grabber)

²⁸ And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. (Israel – He who is with God shall prevail over men – correct translation)

NOTE: (Ignorant preachers say – he prevailed over God. That's ridiculous. God tested him and he passed the test. Nothing more)

²⁹ And 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.

³⁰ And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. (Peniel = the face of God)

³¹ And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh. (He could hardly walk because he was in pain)

³² Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

