

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

APRIL 26, 2023

GENESIS 32:22-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. After twenty years of being separated from his brother, Jacob makes an effort to reconcile.
 - a) PANIC: *"He is coming out to meet you, and four hundred men are with him"* (Gen. 32.6).
 - b) PRAYER: *"Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother"* (Gen. 32.11).
 - b) PRESENTS: *"I will appease him with the present that goes before me"* (Gen. 32.20).
2. Jacob sends his family *"over the ford of Jabbok"* (Gen. 32.22,23)
 - a) Jabbok was a river which was the northern border of Ammon. (Deut. 3.16)
 - b) **GENESIS 32.24:** *"Then Jacob was left alone"*
3. From evening until morning, Jacob wrestled and prevailed against God.

I. JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

- A. The identity of Jacob's opponent.
 1. **GENESIS 32.24:** *"a Man wrestled with him..."*
 2. "Wrestle" translates a Hebrew word derived from the same word as "Jabbok"
 3. Who is the "Man" with whom Jacob wrestled?
 - a) **GENESIS 32.28:** *"you have struggled with God"* (v. 30)
 - b) More specifically, Jacob wrestled with *"the Angel"* (Hos. 12.3-5).
 - c) This was not the only time the Angel made an appearance. (Judges 13.2,3,15-21)
- B. The battle with Jacob's opponent.
 1. **GENESIS 32.24:** *"...until the breaking of day."* It was an all-night battle.
 2. **GENESIS 32.25:** *"Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him."*
 - a) Why was Jacob able to prevail against the Angel? (Hos. 12.1-3; John 19.10,11)
 - b) From birth, Jacob wrestled to gain God's favor. (Hos. 12.4)
 - c) **GENESIS 32.25:** *"I will not let You go unless You bless me."*
 3. **GENESIS 32.25:** *"He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him."*
 - a) Yet, that did not stop him. (Gen. 32.26)
 - b) From this battle, a new tradition was established. (Gen. 32.32)
- C. The name of Jacob's opponent.
 1. **GENESIS 32.27:** *"So He said to him, 'What is your name?'"*
 - a) What does Jacob's name mean? (cf. Gen. 25.26; 27.36)
 - b) Why was his name changed to Israel? (Gen. 32.28; 35.10)
 2. **GENESIS 32.29:** *"The Jacob asked saying, 'Tell me Your name'"* (Judges 13.17,18)

II. DO YOU WRESTLE WITH GOD?

- A. Fighting against God is a losing and hopeless battle. (Isa. 45.9)
 1. When we commit immorality, we are fighting against God. (Rev. 2.14-16)
 2. When we hinder the gospel, we are fighting against God. (Acts 5.39; 23.9)
 3. When we worship God hypocritically, we are fighting against God. (1 Cor. 10.21,22)
- B. Fighting with God on our side, we will always prevail. (Rom. 8.31)
 1. Using the weapons of war, we are able to *"cast down arguments"* (2 Cor. 10.3-6).
 2. Through the inner strength of faith, we can overcome temptation. (Eph. 6.10-13)