

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

APRIL 19, 2023

GENESIS 32:3FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. **GENESIS 32.1:** *“So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.”*
 - a) Primarily, angels function as the messengers of God. [angel (aggelos): “messenger”]
 - b) Angels are dispatched into the realm of providence to help. (Luke 22.43; Heb. 1.14)
 - c) The angels were a reminder to Jacob of God’s promise. (Gen. 28.12,15).
2. Two brothers who were once at enmity with each other are now reconciled.

I. THE PANIC OF JACOB

- A. Jacob seeks to be at peace with his brother.
 1. **GENESIS 32.3:** *“Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother”*
 - a) Messengers (malak): Same word that is translated as “angels” in verse 1.
 - b) *“in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.”*
 2. **GENESIS 32.4:** *“my lord Esau...your servant Jacob says.”* (vs. 5,18, 33.8,13,14,15)
 - a) Jacob and Esau did not leave on good terms. (Gen. 27.34-38,41)
 - b) **GENESIS 32.5:** *“that I may find favor in your sight.”* (Gen. 32.8,10)
- B. Esau intends to come and meet with Jacob.
 1. **GENESIS 32.6:** *“he is also coming out to meet you, and four hundred men are with him”* Why did his servants include information about Esau’s men?
 2. Jacob prepares for the worst. (Gen. 32.7,8; 33.1,2)

II. THE PRAYER OF JACOB

- A. Jacob appealed to God’s promise of protection.
 1. **GENESIS 32.9:** *“the Lord who said to me...”* (cf. Gen. 28.21,22)
 2. **GENESIS 32.10:** *“I am not worthy...”* God had already blessed him.
- B. Jacob appealed to God’s promise of posterity.
 1. **GENESIS 32.11:** *“Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother”*
 - a) Jacob prayed because he was afraid for himself.
 - b) Jacob prayed because he was afraid for his family.
 2. **GENESIS 32.12:** *“make your descendants as the sand of the sea”*
- C. We ought never to underestimate the power of prayer. (James 5.16-18; Luke 18.1ff)

III. THE PRESENTS OF JACOB

- A. **GENESIS 32.13,14:** *“took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother”*
 1. In three separate groups, Jacob sent these presents to Esau. (Gen. 32.16-21)
 2. Why were these presents sent? *“I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me”* (v. 20).
- B. How did Esau react to all these gifts?
 1. **GENESIS 33.8,9:** *“What do you mean by all this company?”*
 2. Esau called Jacob *“my brother”* (Gen. 33.9). Compare with verse 3.
- C. The greatest gift you can give anyone is forgiveness.
 1. Jacob wanted to make things right with his brother. (Gen. 32.5,8,10)
 2. Regaining your brother is the point! (Matt. 18.15; 2 Cor. 2.6-8)
 3. Regaining your brother is more important than “justice.” (cf. James 2.13)