

WRESTLING WITH GOD
(Genesis 32:1-32)

- I. Encounter with ANGELS (Gen. 32:1-2)
 - A. Appeared as Jacob continued toward CANAAN
 - B. Appeared to ENCOURAGE Jacob: he was protected by God's ARMY
 - 1. In the face of ESAU'S HATRED (cf. Gen. 28:12-15)
 - 2. A reminder of God's PROMISES
- II. Emissaries to ESAU (Gen. 32:3-8)
 - A. Their MESSAGE to Esau
 - 1. Acknowledged Esau's socio-political SUPERIORITY
 - 2. Demonstrated Jacob's financial INDEPENDENCE
 - B. Their REPORT about Esau: he's coming with 400 men
 - C. Jacob's REACTION to the news
 - 1. He was "GREATLY AFRAID"
 - 2. Took immediate action to protect his FAMILY and PROPERTY
 - 3. He does not ARM his servants for DEFENSE or ATTACK
- III. Entreaty for DELIVERANCE (Gen. 32:9-12)
 - A. His PRAYER to God
 - 1. Acknowledged God's POWER and FAITHFULNESS
 - 2. Thanked God for His PROMISES and BLESSINGS
 - 3. Admits that he is UNWORTHY

4. Cries out for DELIVERANCE
5. Asks for NOTHING God has not PROMISED

IV. Endowment for ESAU (Gen. 32:13-21a)

- A. Designed to be an OVERWHELMING gesture of GOOD WILL
- B. Demonstrated the DEGREE of God's BLESSING
 1. Jacob offers no APOLOGY, admits no SIN, asks no FORGIVENESS
 2. Jacob REFUSES to DEFEND himself
 3. Jacob still wants PEACE with his brother

V. Encounter with GOD (Gen. 32:21b-32)

- A. Jacob moved his FAMILY to SAFETY
- B. Jacob retired alone to PRAY
- C. Jacob encountered God PERSONALLY
 1. Jacob learns PERSISTANCE in PRAYER
 2. Jacob learns PERSEVERANCE through PAIN
 3. Jacob gets a new name identifying him as "God's VICTOR"
 4. Jacob believes he will SURVIVE meeting Esau
 5. Jacob has taken POSSESSION of God's PROMISE

VI. Lessons

- A. God is always PRESENT to HELP us
- B. That does not RELIEVE us of our RESPONSIBILITIES
- C. We learn how to be a PEACEMAKER
- D. We learn PERSEVERANCE in PRAYER