



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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Jacob had come to the realization that he could not go back because Laban was behind. He was facing Esau in his forward view. He was between two antagonist to say the least. He places his trust in God.

Gen 32:13-23 give us the information concerning an act of appeasement and a peace offering that Jacob prepared to send to Esau. Jacob sends the present ahead and then in the night crossed his family over the brook at Jabbok. This was about half way between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The name Jabbok means “pouring out or emptying.”

II- Wrestling with an Angel:

Now Jacob finds himself along with his thoughts and fears. **Genesis 32:24a** *And Jacob was left alone...* This points out a very important principle in our relationship with God. We all need some alone time with God to be able to hear Him. Many times we are so busy that the best thing for us to do is go set under a tree and be still.

Genesis 32:24b...and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. Jacob finds himself wrestling with what he first thought was a man all night.

Genesis 32:25 *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. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*

This struggle that was taking place was on a multilevel plain. Jacob was holding on with tenacity. This angel with which he wrestled then with one touch dislocated his thigh out of its hip socket. Jacob now has to hang on even more because he no longer has strength. *Barnes Notes* says:

“Without any support whatever from himself, he hangs upon the conqueror, and in that condition learns by experience the practice of sole reliance on one mightier than himself. This is the turning-point in this strange drama. Henceforth Jacob now feels himself strong, not in himself, but in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

The fact that Jacob sought a blessing from this angel seems to give credence that this could well have been the Lord Jesus in a Christophony, or pre-Bethlehem appearance.

Gen 32:27 *And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 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.*



Coordinates:
Gen 31:1-33:22

Sights to See:

- 1- Jacob had learned to trust God but still was not totally mature in his faith. Faith is a continuous journey throughout life.
- 2- Fears are most of the times larger than reality.
- 3- Jacob's personal encounter with God when he was alone stresses our need for quiet reflections and time with just God.
- 4- If God were to give us a new name what would it be? Would it reflect our dependence on him or upon ourselves and our power and resources?
- 5- It's better to be afflicted with a physically limp in order to walk straight than to walk physically straight and spiritually crooked.
- 6- Godly men still seek to worship God in ways that honor Him. Jacob built an altar remember.
- 7- Faith must become personal for each generation.

