

Timeline of Truth – Jacob Wrestles with God (Gen 32:1-32)

<p>¹ So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.</p> <p>² When Jacob saw them, he said, "This <i>is</i> God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.</p>	<p>1. Jacob Meets the <u>Angels</u> of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>On his way (after leaving Laban)</i> • <i>Meets the angels of God</i> • <i>Angels = mal'ak (v.3,6)</i> • <i>No info on what happened</i> • <i>Mahanaim = "Two Camps"</i>
<p>³ Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.</p> <p>⁴ And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, `Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now.</p> <p>⁵ "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.""</p>	<p>2. Jacob Sends Messengers to <u>Esau</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To Esau in Seir</i> • <i>This is what I've done for 20 years</i> • <i>This is what I have</i> • <i>I am heading your way</i>
<p>⁶ Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men <i>are</i> with him."</p>	<p>3. Jacob's Messengers Return with <u>News</u></p>
<p>⁷ So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that <i>were</i> with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies.</p> <p>⁸ And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."</p>	<p>4. Jacob Divides into <u>Two</u> Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His plan</i> • <i>His reason</i>
<p>⁹ Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, `Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':</p> <p>¹⁰ "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.</p> <p>¹¹ "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me <i>and</i> the mother with the children.</p> <p>¹² "For You said, `I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"</p>	<p>5. Jacob <u>Prays</u> to God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>You are the God of my fathers</i> • <i>You told me to return to my country/family</i> • <i>I am not worthy of your blessings</i> • <i>Please deliver me from Esau</i> • <i>I fear for me, my wives, and my children</i> • <i>Remember your promises</i>
<p>¹³ So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother:</p> <p>¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,</p> <p>¹⁵ thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.</p>	<p>6. Jacob's <u>Prepares a Present</u> for Esau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>220 goats – 200 female / 20 male</i> • <i>220 sheep – 200 ewes / 20 rams</i> • <i>60 camels – 30 milk camels & 30 colts</i> • <i>50 cattle – 40 cows / 10 bulls</i> • <i>30 donkeys – 20 female & 10 foals</i>

<p>16 Then he delivered <i>them</i> to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves."</p> <p>17 And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose <i>are</i> these in front of you?'"</p> <p>18 "then you shall say, 'They <i>are</i> your servant Jacob's. It <i>is</i> a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also <i>is</i> behind us.'" "</p> <p>19 So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;</p> <p>20 "and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob <i>is</i> behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."</p>	<p>7. Jacob Divides into <u>Four</u> Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>He Divides Presents</i> • <i>He Spaces Presents</i> • <i>He Instructs Servants</i> • <i>Jacob Gives an Explanation</i>
<p>21 So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.</p> <p>22 And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.</p> <p>23 He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.</p> <p>24 Then Jacob was left alone;</p>	<p>8. Jacob Sends <u>Everyone</u> Over the Brook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Present sent over</i> • <i>Wives & sons sent over</i> • <i>Remained alone</i>
<p>and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.</p> <p>25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.</p> <p>26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"</p> <p>27 So He said to him, "What <i>is</i> your name?" He said, "Jacob."</p> <p>28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."</p> <p>29 Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell <i>me</i> Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why <i>is</i> it <i>that</i> you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.</p> <p>30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."</p>	<p>9. Jacob <u>Wrestles</u> with God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jacob wrestled with a Man until dawn</i> • <i>The Man put Jacob's hip out of joint</i> • <i>Jacob asks for a blessing from the Man</i> • <i>The Man asks Jacob's name</i> • <i>The Man gives Jacob a new name Israel</i> • <i>Israel = "God prevails"</i> • <i>Jacob asks for the name of the Man</i> • <i>The Man blesses Jacob</i> • <i>Jacob calls the place Peniel</i> • <i>Peniel = "facing God"</i>
<p>31 Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.</p> <p>32 Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which <i>is</i> on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.</p>	<p>10. Jacob Is Left with a <u>Limp</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jacob limps</i> • <i>Israel remembers</i>

Key Lessons:

1. *God meets with Jacob.*
2. *God renames Jacob.*
3. *God reaffirms His blessing of Jacob.*