

JACOB'S RETURN TO CANAAN

Genesis 32:1 - 33:15

After twenty years away from home, Jacob had finally returned to Canaan. But the problem from which he had run away twenty years before was still unsolved, and he must face it now. See below how he prepared to do this:

A. Jacob's Message to Esau: Read Genesis 32:1-5

1. What happened almost as soon as Jacob had parted from Laban? Genesis 32:1, 2 _____

2. What did Jacob do shortly after this? Genesis 32:3-5a

3. What did he hope to accomplish by sending this message? Genesis 32:5b

4. Upon whom does it seem that he was depending for the solution to his problem?
(*THINK!*) _____

B. Esau's Response to Jacob's Message: Read Genesis 32:6

1. What did Jacob's messengers tell him Esau was doing as a result of Jacob's message?
Genesis 32:6

2. Was he coming to make peace? Genesis 32:6b and *THINK!*

C. Jacob's Reaction to Esau's Plans: Read Genesis 32:7-21

1. How did Jacob feel when he heard of Esau's actions? Genesis 32:7a

2. What was he afraid Esau was planning to do? Genesis 32:11b

Remember that smite means to strike, especially with the hand or something held in the hand.
3. Therefore, what three things did Jacob do, and what did he hope to accomplish by each?
Genesis 32:7b-20
 - a. 7b _____
8 _____
 - b. 9-12 _____
11, 12 _____
 - c. 13b-20a _____
20b-d _____

NOTE: Appease means to do all in one's power to bring peace; peradventure means perhaps.

4. Although Jacob prayed to God concerning his problem, does it seem that he was really *depending* upon God to solve it for him? (*THINK!*)

D. A Special Event in Jacob's Life: Read Genesis 32:22-32

1. What did Jacob and his family do that night? Genesis 32:22

2. As Jacob was left alone after this, what happened? Genesis 32:24

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3. When the wrestler saw that he was not prevailing (winning) against Jacob, what did he do? Genesis 32:25

4. What did he say? Genesis 32:26a

5. What was Jacob's answer? Genesis 32:26b

6. Who alone could do what Jacob asked? (*THINK!*)

7. Therefore,, what do we know that Jacob realized about his visitor?
(See Genesis 32:30b)

8. On whom was Jacob now depending for the solution to his problem? (*THINK!*)

9. What did the visitor first do for Jacob? Genesis 32:27, 28a

Remember that Jacob means supplanter, deceiver, trickster. Israel means a prince of God.

10. What does this change of name seem to indicate had happened to Jacob? Compare Genesis 32:28b with Genesis 27:36

11. After this, what else did the visitor do? Genesis 32:29c

E. Jacob's Meeting with Esau: Read Genesis 33:1-15

1. What did Jacob do when he saw Esau approaching? Genesis 33:1-3

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What four things did Esau do when he saw Jacob coming? Genesis 33:4a-d

3. Then what did they both do? Genesis 33:4e

4. Read the conversation which followed: Genesis 33:5-15. Did Esau accept Jacob's gift?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was Esau actually planning at first to kill Jacob? If so, when did the great change in him occur, so that Jacob no longer had a problem concerning him?

2. Am I facing a great problem right now? What great change would God like to make in me, so that He can work His miraculous solution to this problem? (See 2 Corinthians 1:9b)
