

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Genesis 29:32

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

1. Isaac and His Boys, 25:19-34

2. Isaac and His Behavior, 26:1-35

3. Isaac and His Blessing, 27:1-46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—35:29

1. How God Saved Jacob, 28:1-22

2. How God Subdued Jacob, 29:1—30:43

3. How God Stopped Jacob, 31:1—32:32

a. How Old Goals Were Challenged, 31:1-16

b. How Old Gods Were Challenged, 31:17-35

c. How Old Grudges Were Challenged, 31:36-55



Tonight, we continue studying the next patriarch of Israel, Isaac's son, Jacob, The Propagator. We are skipping chapters 29-31. Jacob worked seven years to earn Rachel, but her father, Laban, cunningly gave him the older sister, Leah. He worked seven more years for Rachel. Later, each wife gave Jacob their maids: Leah gave Zilpah, and Rachel gave Bilhah.

- 1) Reuben was Jacob's firstborn. He was the son of Leah, Jacob's first wife.
- 2) Simeon was next, and he was also a son of Leah.
- 3) Levi was the third of Jacob and Leah's children.
- 4) Judah was the next. After bearing Judah, Leah stopped bearing children for a time.

5) Dan was born to Jacob by Bilhah, his wife Rachel's handmaid. It was common practice in that day for a barren wife to give her servant to her husband to bear children in her name.

6) Naphtali was the next child, also through Bilhah.

7) Gad was number seven. He was the child of Jacob and Zilpah, the handmaid of Leah.

8) Asher was next. He was the second son of Zilpah.

9) Issachar was another son granted to Leah.

10) Zebulun was the next child, Leah's sixth.

11) Dinah was Jacob's only daughter, and her mother was Leah.














12) Joseph was Jacob's twelfth child and Rachel's first, as God opened her womb and enabled her to conceive.

13) Benjamin was Jacob's last child. His mother, Rachel, who died during labor, named him Ben-Oni, which means "son of my trouble or sorrow," but Jacob renamed him Benjamin, which means "son of my right hand." Gen.

35:18

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jacobs-children.html>

The Family of Jacob

Leah	Bilhah	Rachel	Zilpah
 <p>1. Reuben</p>	 <p>5. Dan</p>	 <p>11. Joseph</p>	 <p>7. Gad</p>
 <p>2. Simeon</p>	 <p>6. Naphtali</p>	 <p>12. Benjamin</p>	 <p>8. Asher</p>
 <p>3. Levi</p>			
 <p>4. Judah</p>			
 <p>9. Issachar</p>			
 <p>10. Zebulun (then)</p>			
 <p>Dinah</p>			

<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/> ~ Graphics @ Logos Bible Clips (Used with permission)

d. How Old Guilt Was Challenged, 32:1-32

(1) Jacob's Confirmation from God. 32:1-2

Gen. 32:1 And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

2 And when Jacob saw them, he said, This *is* God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

❖ Too often the unseen protection of God remains unknown to God's children.

Heb. 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

- ❖ But sometimes, the Lord allows His servants to “see” His protection: “And when Jacob saw them, he said, This *is* God's host...”

2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain [was] full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

- ❖ The Lord prepared Jacob for a confrontation to be faced with Esau:

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

(2) Jacob's Confusion About God, 32:3-23

(a) He Could Try Negotiation, 32:3-8

Gen. 32:3 And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

4 And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; **Thy servant** Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now:

5 And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.

6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and **four hundred men with him.**

7 Then **Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed:** and he divided the people that *was* with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;

8 And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.

❖ Jacob faced his fears by devising a plan of survival.

Prov. 22:3 A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. (Prov. 27:12)

'Discretion Is The Better Part Of Valor'

<https://nosweatshakespeare.com/quotes/famous/discretion-better-part-of-valor/>

(b) He Should Try Intercession, 32:9-12

❖ Jacob pleaded...

i. *The Purposes of God*, 32:9

Gen. 32:9 And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

ii. *The Providence of God, 32:10*

Gen. 32:10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

iii. *The Protection of God, 32:11*

Gen. 32:11 **Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him,** lest he will come and smite me, *and* the mother with the children.

Prov. 29:25 **The fear of man bringeth a snare:** but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, **Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom**; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Psa. 60:12 **Through God we shall do valiantly**: for he *it is that* shall tread down our enemies. (Psa. 108:13)

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

iv. *The Promises of God, 32:12*

Gen. 32:12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

❖ Jacob was spiritual enough to humble himself in prayer for God's guidance.

(c) He Would Try Conciliation, 32:13-23

Gen. 32:13 And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother;

14 Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams,

15 Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals.

16 And he delivered *them* into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove.

17 And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, Whose *art* thou? and whither goest thou? and whose *are* these before thee?

18 Then thou shalt say, ***They be thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau:*** and, behold, also he *is* behind us.

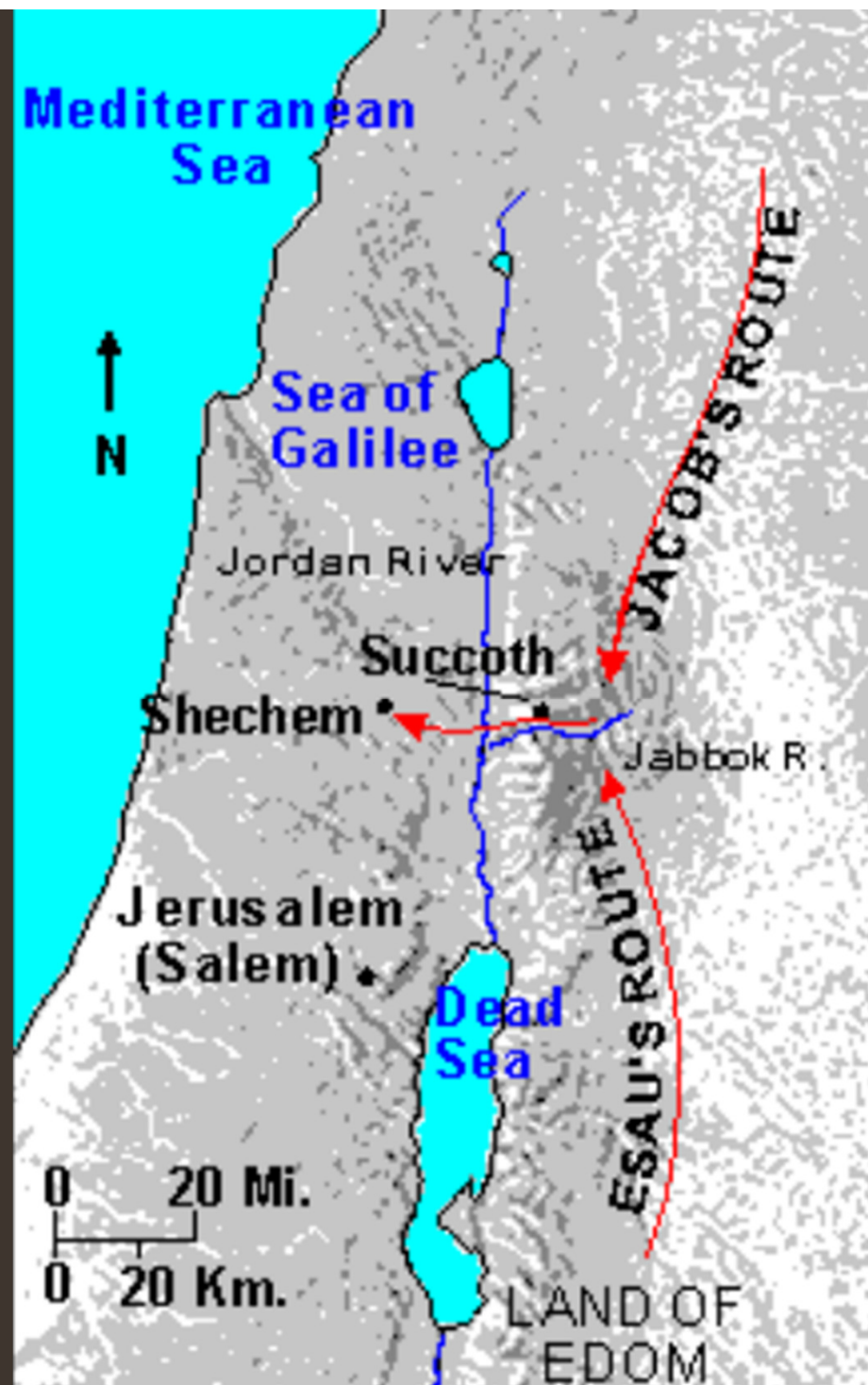
19 And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him.

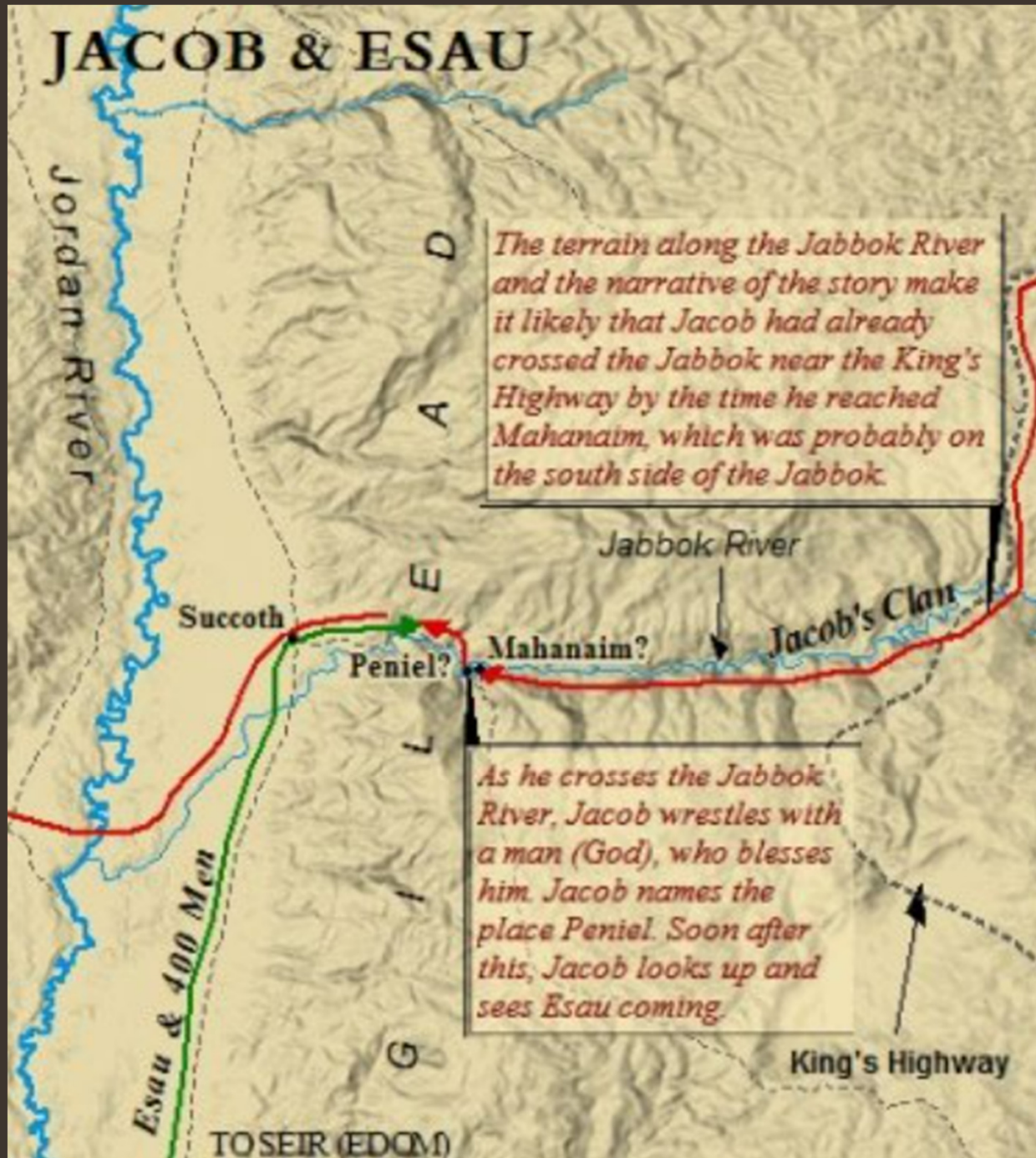
20 And say ye moreover, **Behold, thy servant Jacob** *is* behind us. For he said, **I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me.**

21 So went the present over before him: and himself lodged that night in the company.

22 And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.

23 And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.





- ❖ The tactic of appeasement is usually from a position of apparent weakness.
- ❖ An example of appeasement is the infamous 1938 Munich Agreement, in which Great Britain sought to avoid war with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy by taking no action to prevent Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 or Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938.
- ❖ Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resorted to ordering the British media not to report news of Hitler's conquests. Despite growing public outcry against it, Chamberlain confidently announced that the Munich Agreement had ensured "**peace in our time**," which, of course, it had not.

(3) Jacob's Confrontation with God, 32:24-32

(a) Jacob Alone, 32:24a "And Jacob was left alone..."

❖ Many times a believer must face a situation in life, alone. No one else can help, but the Lord. (Heb. 13:5)

(b) Jacob Alive, 32:24b-25a "

Gen. 32:24a "...and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him..."

- ❖ A wrestling match ensued and continued until the morning dawned.
- ❖ Jacob didn't stand a chance, but the Lord allowed him to "wrestle" the whole night.

(c) Jacob Altered, 32:25b-32

i. Jacob was Broken by God, 32:25b-27

Gen. 32:25b "...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.**

27 And he said unto him, What *is* thy name? And he said, **Jacob.**"

- ❖ Though Jacob was injured, he held tenaciously unto his opponent.
- ❖ Jacob sought a “blessing” expressing acknowledgement of his combatant.
- ❖ The inquiry for the name was to emphasize Jacob’s realization of his character.

Gen 27:18 And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I; **who art thou, my son?**

...

24 And he said, **Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.**

ii. Jacob was Blessed by God, 32:28-30

Gen. 32:28 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.

29 And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore *is it that* thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

- ❖ Jacob is “promoted” from “supplanter” to “God prevails.”
- ❖ Jacob’s concern and fear of Esau was replaced with fearing God.

iii. Jacob was Branded by God,
32:31-32

Gen. 32:31 And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

32 Therefore the children of Israel eat not *of* the sinew which shrank, which *is* upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

❖ A wounded servant is sensitive to his vulnerability and fragility.

❖ Penuel = “facing God.”

Ex. 5:3 And they said, **The God of the Hebrews hath met with us:** let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

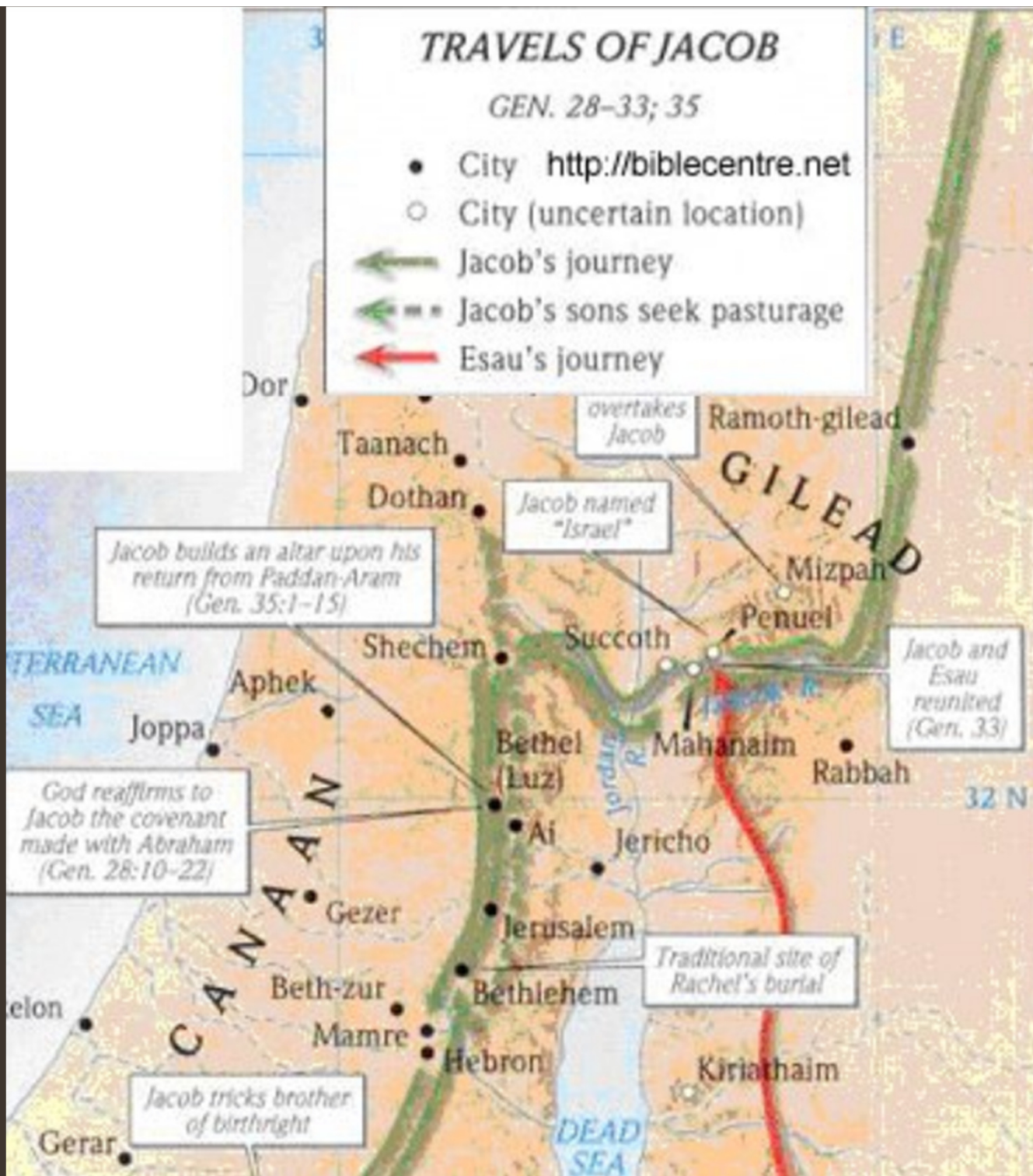
Josh. 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries?

14 And he said, Nay; but **as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come**. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

TRAVELS OF JACOB

GEN. 28-33; 35

- City <http://biblecentre.net>
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Jacob's journey
- ← = Jacob's sons seek pasturage
- ← Esau's journey



Summary

- ❖ After Jacob being twenty years with Laban, the Lord commands him to return to his homeland, Gen. 31:3.
- ❖ Jacob made plans to face Esau. Afraid of Esau, Jacob wrestled with thoughts of the confrontation, then had to wrestle with the Angel of the Lord.
- ❖ Being afraid of Esau was not as important as being afraid of the Lord.
- ❖ After the Lord allowed Jacob to survive, He gave him greater insight of His plans which included a wound to carry the rest of Jacob's life.
- ❖ Jacob "won" a great battle, a victory of faith.

Conclusion

Hos. 12:3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:
4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him *in* Bethel, and there he spake with us;
5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD *is* his memorial.

Num. 6:24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:
26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Isa. 49:3 And said unto me, **Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.**

2 Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of **Christ, who is the image of God**, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Jn. 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?