

There is more

1. **Recap end of 2018** - Where are you God? What are You doing? Spiritually discouraged. Can't have more of the same.
2. **Turnaround January 2019** - Expectation Sunday, God reignited passion.
3. **January worship group meeting** - Praying for each other and prophetic words.
4. **Increasing hunger** - Reading about past moves of God; prayer is a common component.
5. **As I have prayed God has put Genesis 32 on my heart: Jacob wrestling with God. I believe it is a call to the church.**
6. **Who was Jacob, what happened in his life that led him to wrestle with God?**
 - a. Jacob means 'heel grabber', 'supplanter' (to take the place of another through force, scheming, strategy), 'he cheats'.
 - b. Son of Isaac and Rebekah; younger brother of Esau his twin.
 - c. Deceives Esau by cheating him out of his birthright and out of his father Isaac's blessing.
 - d. Esau wants to kill Jacob. Jacobs runs away to his uncle Laban (his mother Rebekah's brother) in Paddan-aram.
 - e. God speaks to Jacob in a dream and repeats the same promise He made to Abraham and Isaac (Gen 28:13-15) - Jacob names place Bethel (house of God).
 - f. Laban deceived Jacob over his marriage to Rachel and over his wages.
 - g. Jacob leaves Laban secretly after God tells him in a dream to go to the promised land (Gen 31:13).
 - h. Laban chases after Jacob and his family but God warns Laban not to

speak good or bad to Jacob.

- i. Jacob is terrified of going back to the promised land because of his brother Esau, who previously threatened to kill him.
- 7. Gen 32:1 - Angels of God met Jacob in the promised land.** A typical understated sentence, with little explanation!
- 8. Gen 32:3 to 7 - Jacob sends messengers to his brother Esau to offer him gifts and seek Esau's favour. Messengers return to say Esau is coming with 400 men. Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed - he feared for his life!**
- 9. Gen 32:7 & 8 - Jacob plots and plans.**
- 10. Gen 32:9 to 12 - Jacob prays (read):**
- a. Jacob in desperation prays!
 - b. He first recognises who God is.
 - c. Reminds God of what He has said.
 - d. He is humble before God and recognises God's blessings on his life.
 - e. He pleads with God to save him and is honest about his fears.
 - f. Ends by reminding God of His promises to Jacob.
- 11. Gen 32:13 to 21 - Jacob plots and plans again!** Not full of faith in God, he covers all bases by trying to win Esau over with lavish gifts of livestock that he sends ahead of him.
- 12. Gen 32:22 & 23 - Jacob still terrified, he send his wives, their servants and the children ahead of him.** Jacob full of faith that God will answer? His actions say otherwise.
- 13. Gen 32:24 - Jacob is all alone.** Is he expecting someone?

14. Gen 32:25 - A man wrestles with Jacob through the night.

- a. Where did He come from?
- b. The man in God in human form, not an angel. Why? Jacob believes he has seen God 'face to face' and also the man speaks with the authority of God.

15. Gen 32:25 - The man did not prevail...

- a. Prevail means 'to win', 'to triumph', 'overcome', 'conquer'.
- b. God couldn't beat Jacob in a wrestling match?!
- c. God dislocated Jacob's hip.

16. Gen 32.26 - GOD 'Let Me go' and JACOB 'I will not let You go unless You bless me!'

- a. Jacob holds onto God through sheer desperation and determination.
- b. Jacob violates a direct command of God to 'let Him go'.
- c. God searches the hearts of people.

17. Gen 32.27 - GOD asks 'What is your name?'

- a. God knows Jacob's name, He is about to make a point.

18. Gen 32.28 - 'No longer Jacob but Israel'

- a. God gives Jacob a new name and a new identity.
- b. No longer a 'schemer, a cheater, a deceiver' but now one who 'wrestles with man and God' and is victorious!
- c. Israel is the name of a man but also of nation through which God plans to bless the world, and through whom the messiah will come (Jesus). God is starting to fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- d. Later in Scripture, God refers to himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- e. New identity and a new walk, literally!

19. Gen 33:1 to 4 - Jacob meets Esau and survives.

- a. Jacob still not full of faith at this point.
- b. Esau runs to Jacob, weeps and kisses him. Whilst Jacob has been wrestling with God, God has been working on Esau's heart.

20. Why did God wrestle with Jacob?

- a. For Jacob's benefit, not God's. God could easily win.
- b. God is not distant and is willing to engage with us intimately. He is willing to come down to our level and where we are at.
- c. God tests hearts and minds. Was Jacob really hungry enough, desperate enough to see a change and to be changed?

- i. **Jeremiah 17:10**

"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.

- d. God is a good Father and hears the cries of His children. He allowed Jacob the victory:

- i. **Matthew 7:7 to 11**

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!".

Key points

- 21. 'I will not let You go until You bless me!' a good attitude to adopt!**

22. THERE IS MORE

I believe it is a time to take the promises of God and not let go until we see the blessing and fulfilment of them.

- a. Persistent, prevailing prayer - Matt 7:7 & 8 and Luke 18:1 to 8.
- b. Holding on tight to the promises of God until we see breakthrough.
- c. Looking outwards to the community we live in - what has God promised?
Psalm 2:8.

23. THERE IS MORE

What has God said to you personally? Are you pursuing the promises of God in your own life?

24. Good news! God is actively looking for people to work with and through:

- a. 2 Chronicles 16:9
9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.

Why can't that be us? That can be us!