

## A NAME CHANGE

Genesis 32: 1-33: 1

Jacob continued on his travel towards the land of Canaan, his home. As he went, the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw the angels, he called the name of that place Mahanaim, which means this is God's host.

Jacob sent messengers on ahead to his brother Esau, who lived in the land of Seir the country of Edom. Jacob told his servants to say, "Your servant Jacob says, 'I have stayed with Laban until now. I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants and maidservants. I have sent this message to my lord, hoping that I may find grace in your sight.'"

After meeting with Esau, the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "Your brother Esau is coming to meet you with four hundred horsemen"

When Jacob heard this, he was terribly frightened and distressed. Jacob had left home because Esau was angry with him for stealing the blessing. Esau had planned to kill his brother Jacob. Now it looked as if Esau was on his way to do what he had planned long ago. Jacob divided the people that were with him, and the flocks, and herds, and camels, into two groups. He said, "If Esau comes to one group and strikes it, the other group will have a chance to escape." Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who told me to return to my home. I am not worthy of even the smallest of your mercies, or of the truth which you have showed to me, your servant. I passed over Jordan with nothing but my staff, and now I am returning with two groups. Please deliver me from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid of him. I am afraid that he may come and kill me, and my wives and my children. You said that You would surely do me good, and make my descendants to be greater than the sand of the sea in number."

Then Jacob stopped for the night in that place. He took of his things to make a present for his brother. He took two hundred female goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, thirty milk camels, with their colts, forty cattle, ten bulls, twenty female asses, and ten foals. He gave these animals into the hands of his servants, and told them, "Go over the brook ahead of me, and put distance between each group of animals. Jacob told each of the herders, "When you get to my brother Esau, and he asks you, 'Who do these belong to? Where are you going?' Then I want you to say, 'These are your servant Jacob's animals. It is a present that he sends to my lord Esau. He is coming along behind us.'"

Jacob planned to appease his brother Esau's anger with the gifts that he was sending to him.

Jacob sent his gifts on ahead, and he stayed behind that night. He took his wives, and his two women servants, his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabok. Jacob sent everything that he had across the brook, but he himself stayed behind. He was left alone, and there he wrestled with a man until the day began to break. When the man saw that he did not defeat Jacob, he touched his thigh, so that it went out of joint. The man said, "Let me go for the day is breaking."

But Jacob answered, "I will not let you go until you bless me."

The man said, "What is your name?"

He answered, "Jacob."

The man said, "You will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince you have power with God, and with men, and you have prevailed."

Jacob asked the man, "Tell me, please, your name."

The man answered, "Why is it that you ask my name?" Then he blessed Jacob.

Jacob called the name of that place Peniel, saying, "I have seen God face to face, and my life is saved."

As Jacob passed over the brook, the sun was rising. Jacob was limping because of his thigh, for the Lord had touched it so that Jacob would limp from that time forward.

As Jacob looked up, he saw his brother Esau coming.

As Jacob headed back to his homeland, he was afraid of what might happen when he met up with his angry brother Esau. But the Lord had told Jacob to return home, and so in obedience he went. Jacob stopped to pray and remind himself of God's promise to make a great nation of him. He asked for God's protection. Because Jacob trusted and obeyed God, not giving up the fight, determined to have God's blessing, God did bless Jacob. God gave Jacob the new name of Israel, so that he would always be reminded of what God had done for him. God had changed Jacob's character from being a deceiver, to being a prince of God.

God wants to bless each of his children. The blessing we desire can be found in trusting and obeying the Lord, just as Jacob did.

**PRINCIPLE:** God's blessing comes to those who trust and obey him.

**LEARN:** Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous, and cruel man.  
For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.  
Psalm 71:4, 5



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1. Color the scene.
2. Color all characters & cut them out.
3. Paste on picture to show story.
4. Draw your own herd of comels or goats in the distance.



