

STUDY TWENTY EIGHT

THE FIGHT OF FAITH

Genesis 32

Introduction

Jacob resumes his journey back to his homeland of Canaan. Uppermost in his mind is his coming reunion with his brother Esau. He has not met Esau for twenty years. He has no idea of Esau's feelings toward himself after so long. Would Esau still want to kill him? If so, how would he know? Is there anything he could do to prepare himself? Jacob did not expect the extraordinary ways in which God was to prepare him in this story. We may not meet God in such extraordinary ways but he is just as much involved in our lives today.

Questions For Discussion

1.a) Who met Jacob on his journey back to Canaan (v.1)?

b) Why did God send an army of angels? (See Heb. 1:14)

2. In what ways had God shown his kindness and faithfulness to Jacob (v.10)?

3. What can we learn about prayer from Jacob's example (vv.9-12)?

4.a) What gifts did Jacob send ahead to Esau?

b) Why did he send these gifts (v.20)?

c) What does this tell us about his faith?

d) Is it all right for followers of Christ to give gifts in order to secure the favour of someone?

5. What can we learn about the “man” who wrestled with Jacob (v.30)? (Note: the man was probably an angel acting as God’s representative.)

6.a) Why did the man ask Jacob’s name (v.27)? (Note: the meaning of “Jacob” is “the deceiver”; God wanted Jacob to admit his deceitful character.)

b) What does this teach us about repentance?

7.a) What did Jacob do to get a blessing from the man (v.26)?

b) What does that teach us about faith? (See 1Tim. 6:12)

c) What does that teach us about prayer?

For Further Thought And Action

In what ways has God shown his kindness and faithfulness to you?

Memory Verse

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1Timothy 6:12