

Three Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Esau the older and Jacob the younger were twins)

Before He knew God - God knew him

God's purpose was at work even in the womb

Genesis 25:23 ESV And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the **younger**."

Gen 25:26 Jacob means "heel catcher" - supplanter, one who wrongfully takes the place of another -- He **stole** Esau's birthright, He **deceived** His Father, (impersonating Esau) and **stole** Esau's blessing

Gen 27:41 ESV Now **Esau hated Jacob** ... and Esau said to himself, **I will kill my brother Jacob.**"

Gen 28:10 ESV Jacob left Beersheba and is heading toward Haran...**500 miles away**

How did God reveal Himself to Jacob? God of Abraham, Isaac and Promise Keeper

Gen 28:10-22 ESV Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, **the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac.** The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and **in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.** 15 Behold, **I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.**"

- God promised to give this land to Abraham and to his offspring...now his offspring is running away

Jacob was unaware of the presence of the LORD - the Lord is Pursuing Him

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "**Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.**"

17 And he was afraid and said, "**How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.**" 18 So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. 19 **He called the name of that place Bethel**, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Jacob makes a vow - if...then the Lord shall be my God - maybe it seemed impossible

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "**If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, 21 so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God,** 22 and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

God's Timetable - 20 yrs later the LORD sends him back - What Does Jacob call God?

Gen 31:3-5 ESV Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, **and I will be with you.**" 4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was 5 and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. **But the God of my father has been with me.**

God remembers his promise and Jacobs vow - The God of Bethel

Gen 31:13 ESV ***I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.***"

God is protecting him - Laban said -- "the God of your father" spoke to me.

Gen 31:26-29 ESV Laban chases him down.....you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword....flee secretly and trick me.....you have done foolishly. 29 It is in my power to do you harm. **But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'**

God sees, provides and intervenes - What does Jacob call God?

Gen 31:42 ESV If ***the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac***, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

Jacob and Laban make a covenant - How does Jacob address God? Fear of Isaac

Gen 31:48-53 ESV 51 They made a covenant and **Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac**

God is going with him - He is not alone - he calls the place Double Camp

Gen 32:1-2 ESV Jacob went on his way, and ***the angels of God met him***. 2 And when Jacob saw them he said, **"This is God's camp!"** So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

- **Mahanaim - Double Camp** - he was not alone

Jacob faces his greatest fear and turns to the LORD - maybe the first time He asks God for help - because he is usually able to manipulate the situations

Gen 32:6-11 ESV Esau...is coming to meet you, and there are **four hundred men with him.**" 7 Then **Jacob was greatly afraid** and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, 8 thinking, "If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape." 9 And Jacob said, ***"O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good.'*** 10 **I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown** to your servant, for **with only my staff** I crossed this Jordan, and now **I have become two camps.** 11 **Please deliver me** from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, **for I fear him**, that he may come and **attack me, the mothers with the children.**

Jacob was left alone - His name and his nature were changed...I have seen God face to face

Gen 32:24-30 ESV **And Jacob was left alone.** And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, **"I will not let you go unless you bless me."** 27 And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then he said, ***"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."*** 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place ***Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."***

Jacob became one who BLESSES - he saw his brother not as one to take advantage of, but as in the image of God

Gen 33:8-11 ESV Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." 9 **But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."** 10 Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. **For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. 11 Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough."** Thus he urged him, and he took it.

He called the altar God, the God of Israel

Gen 33:17-20 ESV But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock.... 20 **There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.**