

Before He knew God - God knew him

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.”

Jacob - the “Heel Catcher”

Supplanter - one who takes the place that belongs to another

A deceiver, a liar, and a manipulator

He steals his brother’s birthright and blessing of the firstborn

Esau wants to kill him, so **he runs** to a place that is **500 miles away**

What did God call Himself?

Gen 28:12 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.

God was pursuing Jacob, & Jacob was unaware

Gen 28:16 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."

Jacob makes a vow

Gen 28: 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,**

God's Timetable --- 20 years is a long time - 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 remembered his promise and Jacobs vow -
What does God call Himself?

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 protects Jacob - what does Laban call the LORD?

But **the God of your father** spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'

Jacob realizes that God sees and intervenes -
What does he call the LORD?

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."

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.

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...I have seen God face to face

Jacob was left alone

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.

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.