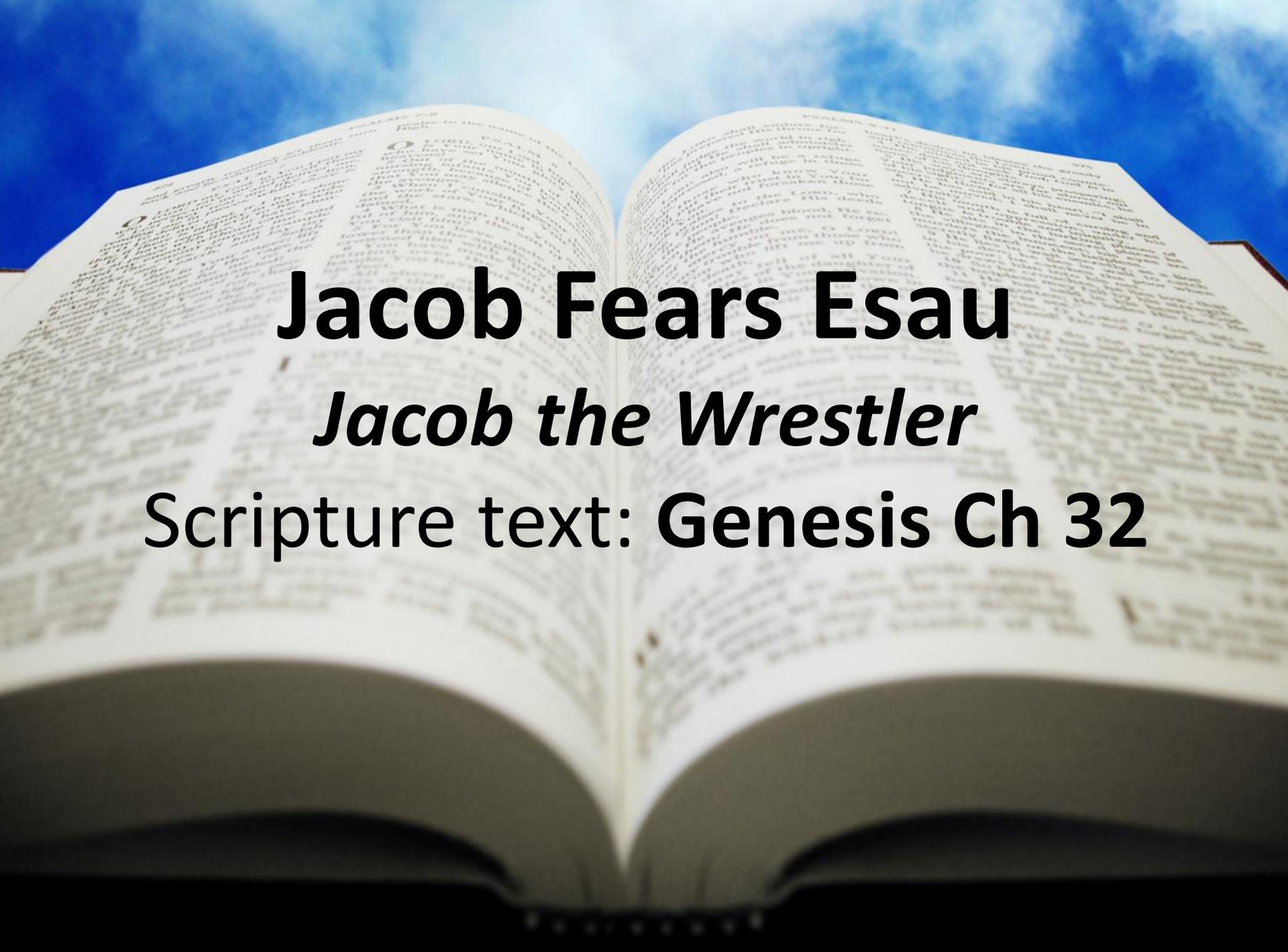


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

# **Jacob Fears Esau**

## ***Jacob the Wrestler***

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 32**

## **Genesis 32 – 36;**

These chapters record several crucial experiences in Jacob's life **as he made his way from Laban's house to Bethel.**

They give us three vivid pictures of this man **who illustrates for us the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit, the old life and the new.**

### **Jacob the Wrestler (32)**

**Esau was coming and Jacob was about to meet up with his forgotten past.**

Would Esau forgive him or fight him? Would Jacob lose everything he had schemed to acquire?

**How tragic it is when the past catches up with sinners.** Geography could not erase Jacob's past nor could twenty years of history change it. But before Jacob met Esau, **he experienced three other meetings:**

**Genesis 27:39 -42** Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high. By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck." Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; **then I will kill my brother Jacob.**" But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, "**Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you.**"

**He met God's angels (vv. 1–20).**

He had first seen these angels at Bethel (chap. 28), and **they should have been a reminder to Jacob that God was in control.** He named the place “**the two camps**” (his own camp and the camp or army of angels), but **he failed to put his faith in God who had promised years before to protect him.** Believers today may claim Heb. 1:14 and Ps. 91:11–13 as they are walking in the will of God.

**Hebrews 1:14** Are they not all **ministering spirits** sent out to serve **for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

**Psalm 91:11-13** For he will command his **angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.** On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

**Alas, Jacob started trusting himself and his own schemes again!**

He tried to appease Esau with gifts. He divided his company into two bands (v. 7) and **ignored the protecting army of angels.**

Then, after taking these steps in carnal confidence, **he asked for God's help!** Had he forgotten the way God had protected him from Laban? (31:24)

**Genesis 31:24** But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

**Genesis 31:29-30** 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.' And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

## *He met the Lord (vv. 21–26).*

**It is when we get alone with God that good things begin to happen.** Christ came to wrestle with Jacob, and the struggle lasted all night. Keep in mind that Jacob was not wrestling to get a blessing from God; **rather, he was defending himself and refusing to yield.** The Lord wanted to break Jacob and bring him to the place where he would honestly say, **“Not I, but Christ”** (Gal. 2:20).

**All night long, Jacob defended himself and refused to surrender or even admit that he had sinned.**

**Then God weakened Jacob, and the wrestler could only cling!**

Now instead of scheming for a blessing or bargaining for a blessing, he asked God for the blessing—and **he received it.**

**Genesis 32:24-28** And Jacob was left alone. **And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.** 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. Then he said, "**Let me go, for the day has broken.**" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 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.**"

**Galatians 2:19-21** For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. **I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.** And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

**This is a SURRENDERED Will!**

**Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, '**I never knew you;** depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

## *He met himself (vv. 27–32).*

We don't truly see ourselves until first we see the Lord. **“What is your name?”** (v. 27, nkjv) was the question that forced Jacob to confess his true self—**“Jacob, the schemer.”** Once he faced himself and confessed his sin, Jacob could be changed. God gave him a new name—**“Israel, prince with God”** or **“a God-governed man.”**

**Genesis 32:29-32** 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. 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.**" The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, **limping because of his hip.** Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

**The way to have power with God is to be broken by God.**

God also gave him a **new beginning** and a new power as he began **“walking in the Spirit”** and not in the flesh. This was illustrated by a new walk, for now Jacob limped. **He had been broken by God, but his limp was a mark of power and not weakness.** Verse 31 indicates the dawning of a new day, as the sun rose and Jacob limped out to meet Esau-with God’s help!

**Hosea 12:2-6** The LORD has an indictment against Judah and **will punish Jacob according to his ways;** he will **repay** him **according to his deeds.** In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood **he strove with God. He strove with the angel and prevailed;** he wept and sought his favor. **He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us--the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is his memorial name: "So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God."**

**1 John 1:6-10** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-17** For the love of Christ **controls us**, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, **that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.** From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

**Galatians 5:17-21** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. **I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**Galatians 5:22-26** But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; **against such things there is no law.** And **those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** If we live by the Spirit, **let us also walk by the Spirit.** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a **messenger of Satan to harass me**, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times **I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me**. But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, **so that the power of Christ may rest upon me**. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

**Romans 8:26-28** Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.** And **we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**

**Proverb 3:3-8** Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; **write them on the tablet of your heart.** So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.** Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and **turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.**