

GEN. 32:13-32

Subj: Wrestling with God

I. Preliminary: JACOB TRIES APPEASEMENT: 32:13-21 <sup>(see vs. 20=APPEASE)</sup>

A. HE TRIES GIVING GIFTS (IN LARGE QUANTITIES): VSS 13-18a

B. HE PUTS HIS OWN ENCOUNTER WITH ESAU LAST = <sup>(see)</sup>

"behold, your servant Jacob is behind us" (vss 18, 19): vss 18b-21

Appl: EVEN AFTER PRAYING (see vss 9-12) WE MAY STILL BE RELYING ON OUR OWN DEVICES AND SCHEMES.

II. THE MAIN EVENT: GOD WRESTLES WITH JACOB: 32:22-26

A. GOD GETS JACOB ALONE: vss 22-24a

B. IT IS A LONG WRESTLING MATCH: vs 24b

C. GOD CAUSES PAIN AFTER LONG RESISTANCE BY JACOB: vs 25

D. JACOB REFUSES TO LET GO: vs. 26

Appl: WE ALL HAVE PERIODS OF RESISTANCE TO GOD WHEN HE SEEKS TO SUBDUCE OUR DISOBEDIENCE AND THOSE MAY LEAD TO GREAT PERSONAL PAIN WITHOUT OUR BEING WILLING TO SURRENDER.

But 'clinging' to God can also be seen as positive, and the opposite of fighting Him.

III. The Aftermath: Jacob Realizes Who His Opponent Is: 32:27-32

A. JACOB SEEKS HIS OPPONENT'S NAME AND IS GIVEN ONE HIMSELF: vss 27-28

B. HE STILL SEEKS HIS NAME AND IS BLESSED INSTEAD: vs. 29

C. HE REALIZES HE HAS SEEN GOD: vs 30

D. HE GOES ON WITH A LIMP: vss 31-32

Applications: (1) Wrestling with God can produce the desire to KNOW Him (=NAME); (2) Seeking to know God is the way to know ourselves as we are before Him; (3) It is the secret of blessing; (4) When we have truly 'MET' God we know we have; (5) The 'scars' of our resistance ('limp') remind us of our experience with Him

See  
Hosea  
12:3,4  
for the  
word  
Angel'

Here & in Hos 12  
Jacob is said to  
have 'PREVAILED' (=won)  
but only because he  
clung to God for  
knowledge/blessing