

Defining Moments

Jacob Wrestling with God

When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set.
Genesis 28:11

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel. Genesis 32:31.

There was a day when the sun set on Jacob's life.

There was a day when the sun rose on his life.

Recap on Story of Jacob's Life (Genesis 25-32)

Jacob's name (Hebrew) = 'deceiver, cheat, liar'

Isaac deceived: Jacob, not Esau receives father's blessing.

"Isaac began to tremble violently"

"I have blessed your brother and he shall be blessed."

God meets with him at Bethel in Genesis 28, the sun sets on Jacob's life.

"Surely God is in this place and I was not aware of it." Genesis 28:16

"If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." Genesis 28:20

Text: Genesis 32

"He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape."

Lavish gift (vv. 13-17)

Jacob was left alone. (vs. 24)

"Who is this?"

"He saw God face to face." (vs. 30)

"In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God. He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor."

Hosea 12:3,4

Jacob encountered God.

The man with whom he wrestled touched Jacob's hip. Why the hip?

Jacob cries out, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

God asks him, "What is your Name?" "My name is Jacob."

Jacob moved from a "Bethel" relationship with God, where he bargained with God, to a "Peniel" moment, where he now lived "in the face" or presence of God.

"What is wrong with the world?" "I am. Sincerely, G.K. Chesterton."

"by faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff." Hebrews 11:21