### Genesis

## Chapter 32

1Well, just as Jacob [was about to] continue on his journey, he looked up and he saw the camp of the army of God, and a messenger of God [coming to] meet him. 2So when Jacob saw this, he said:  
  
 ‘This [place] is the campground of God!’  
  
So he named that place MahaNahim [meaning, The Campgrounds].  
  
3Then Jacob sent messengers in front of him to his brother Esau in the land of SeIr and the country of the Edomites. 4He told them to say to Esau:  
  
 ‘Lord, this is what your servant Jacob has said:  
  
 ‘I have visited with Laban and stayed there until now. 5And [during this time], oxen, burros, sheep, and male and female servants were born to me.  
  
 ‘Now I’ve sent [my messengers] to beg you, my lord Esau, to help your servant find favor in your eyes.’  
  
6Then when the messengers returned to Jacob, they told him:  
  
 ‘We found your brother Esau, and {Look!} now he’s coming to meet you with 400 men!’  
  
7Well, Jacob was upset and terrified by this! So he divided the people who were with him, as well as the cattle, camels, and sheep, into two camps. 8And Jacob said:  
  
 ‘If Esau comes to one camp and attacks it, the other camp will survive.’  
  
9Then Jacob [prayed]:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, the God of my father AbraHam and the God of my father IsaAc!  
  
 ‘You’re the One who told me to get up and return to the land where I was born, and that You’d treat me well. 10So, please remember all the justice and truth that You’ve brought about through Your servant.  
  
 ‘Now, with this walking stick of mine, I’ve crossed the JorDan [River] divided into two camps. 11So, please save me from the hands of my brother – from the hands of Esau – because I’m afraid of him, since [he may] enjoy coming here to strike me down with the mothers and the children.  
  
 12‘[Don't forget that] you said You’d treat me well and make my offspring like the sands of the seas… So many that they can’t be counted.’  
  
13Well, after sleeping there that night, [Jacob selected] gifts to be carried to his brother Esau. 14[He sent] 200 nanny goats, 20 billy goats, 200 sheep, 20 rams, 1530 milk camels and their foals, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 burros, and 10 colts.  
  
16He gave them to his servants and said to them:  
  
 ‘Go ahead of me… And leave a space between each of the herds.’  
  
17Then he told the first group:  
  
 ‘If you meet my brother Esau, and he asks:  
  
 ‘Who sent you, where are you headed, and whose animals are [being herded] in front of you?’  
  
 18’You should say:  
  
 ‘[We were sent by] your servant Jacob. He’s sending these as gifts to his lord Esau… {Look!} he’s [traveling] behind us.’  
  
19Then he gave the same instructions to the 2nd group and then to the 3rd… To everyone who traveled ahead of him (following the herds).  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘This is what you should tell Esau when you find him:  
  
 20‘Look! Your servant Jacob is following behind us.’  
  
 ‘For I want to impress Esau with the gifts that [are being sent] ahead of me, so I can see him face to face and hope that he will accept me.’  
  
21So the gifts were then sent out ahead of him, as he spent [part of] the night there in the camp.  
  
22But then, during the night, he got up and took his two wives, the two female servants, and his 11 children, and they all crossed the Jaboch River… 23He led them and all his possessions through that raging river.  
  
  
24It was there that, while Jacob was all by himself, a ‘man’ came up and wrestled with him until the next morning... 25[And when the ‘man’] saw that he wasn’t going to win, he touched the upper part of Jacob’s thigh, which became numb as they wrestled.  
  
26Then [the ‘man’] told [Jacob]:  
  
 ‘Let me go, because the sun is coming up!’  
  
But [Jacob] said:  
  
 ‘I’m not going to let you go until you give me a blessing!’  
  
27So [the ‘man’] asked:  
  
 ‘What’s your name?’  
  
And he answered:  
  
 ‘Jacob.’  
  
28And [the ‘man’] said to him:  
  
 ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob. Rather, IsraEl will be your name... For you’ve grown stronger with God and mightier with men.’  
  
29Then Jacob said:  
  
 ‘Tell me your name.’  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘Why do you [have to] ask my name?’  
  
So He blest him there, 30and Jacob named that place, PeniEl [meaning, Face of God]... For he said:  
  
 ‘I’ve now seen God face to face and survived.’  
  
31Well, the sun was up by the time he left PeniEl (the place where he’d been stopped by his thigh). 32And this is why, to this very day, the children of IsraEl will never eat the part of meat that’s on the thigh… Because, that was the place on Jacob’s thigh that [God’s messenger] had numbed.