

Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau

1 So early in the morning, Laban arose, and kissed his sons and daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place. 2 So Jacob went on his way, and saw the hosts of God encamped. 3 When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is God’s encampment”; and he called the name of that place Encampments. 4 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 5 And he commanded them, saying, “Speak thus to my lord Esau, ‘Thus your servant Jacob says, “I sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in your sight.” ’” 6 Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him.” 7 So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people with him and the oxen and sheep into two companies. 8 Thus Jacob said, “If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the other company will escape.”

9 Again Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, ‘Return to the land of your nativity, and I will deal well with you,’ 10 let me be satisfied with all the righteousness and all the truth You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. 11 Deliver me from the hand of my brother, Esau; for I am afraid of him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. 12 For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

13 So he lodged there that same night, and took some of the things he had brought as a present for Esau his brother: 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred sheep and twenty rams, 15 thirty milk camels with their offspring, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. 16 Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, each flock by itself, and said to his servants, “Go on before me, and put some distance between successive droves.” 17 And he commanded the first one, saying, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, ‘To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these going before you?’ 18 Then you shall say, ‘Your servant Jacob’s. These things are a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.’” 19 So he commanded the first, the second, and the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, “In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; 20 and also say, ‘Behold, your servant Jacob is coming behind us.’” For he said to himself, “I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” 21 So the present went on before him, but he himself lodged that night in the encampment.

Jacob Wrestles with God

22 And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. 23 He took them and crossed over the brook, and sent over what he had. 24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was dislocated as he wrestled with Him. 26 Then He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” 27 So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” 28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but

Israel; for you have prevailed with God and with men.”

29 Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And he said, “Why do you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. 30 So Jacob called the name of that place, the Form of God: “For I saw God face to face, and my soul was saved.” 31 When the Form of God passed by, the sun rose on him, but he limped on his hip. 32 Therefore to this day, the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob’s hip, in the muscle that shrank.

Genesis 33

Jacob and Esau Meet

1 Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau his brother was coming, and four hundred men with him. So Jacob divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants. 2 Then he put the maidservants and their sons in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 He then crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. 4 But Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him; and they wept. 5 Then he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, “Who are these with you?” He replied, “The children God mercifully gave your servant.” 6 Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down.

7 Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Rachel and Joseph came near, and they bowed down.

8 Then Esau said, “What are these things to you, all this company I met?” So he said, “That your servant might find grace in the sight of my Lord.” 9 But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” 10 But Jacob replied, “If I have now found grace in your sight, receive the present from my hands, inasmuch as I have seen your face, as though someone might see the face of God; and you were pleased with me. 11 Receive my blessing I brought you, because God has shown me mercy; and I have enough.” Thus he urged him, and he took it.

12 Then Esau said, “Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you.” 13 But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows the children are weak, and the flocks and herds with me are giving birth. If therefore the men should drive them hard one day, all the cattle would die. 14 Let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace the children are able to bear, until I come to my lord in Seir.” 15 Then Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the people with me.” But he said, “What need is there? It is enough that I found grace in my lord’s sight.”

16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

17 Then Jacob journeyed to Succoth, built houses, and made booths for his cattle. Therefore, he called the name of that place, Succoth. 18 Then Jacob came safely to Salem, a city of Shechem, in the land of Canaan, when he came from Mesopotamia of Syria; and he took up a position in front of the city. 19 He then bought the parcel of land where he pitched his tent from Hamor, Shechem’s father, for a hundred male lambs. 20 There he set up an altar and called on the God of Israel.

NEXT WEEK’S READING : JOSEPH SOLD INTO SLAVERY

Genesis 37: 1 - 36