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Pastor's Bible Study
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Genesis WRESTLING WITH GOD

Genesis 32

www.thesacramentaljourney.org

JACOB'S DECISION TO RETURN HOME: Jacob has spent 20 years in his uncle's charge and is now ready to go home. However, this means there will be an inevitable encounter with Esau.

ANGELIC MESSENGERS: God sends some sort of message to Jacob.

JACOB'S MESSENGERS: Jacob sends messengers to Esau.

JACOB'S FEARS, PRAYERS, AND PLANS: Jacob is afraid of how Esau will respond. He turns to the Lord in prayer. He crafts a plan to promote healing between the brothers.

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD: This text records a mysterious encounter between Jacob and God.

ISRAEL! Jacob is given a new name - Israel - "he struggles with God" or "God struggles".

PENIEL: The face of God.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. God knows we need encouragement! God provided messengers to greet Jacob to encourage him.
2. At issue: birth, birthright, and blessing.
3. Prayer is essential in our relationship with God.
4. Plans can be consecrated.
5. The wonderful play on words in this text: face, struggle, Jacob, etc.
6. We all need personal encounters with God in our own spiritual journey.
7. Self-sufficiency is never the answer.
8. God is at work in the transforming process in all of our lives.