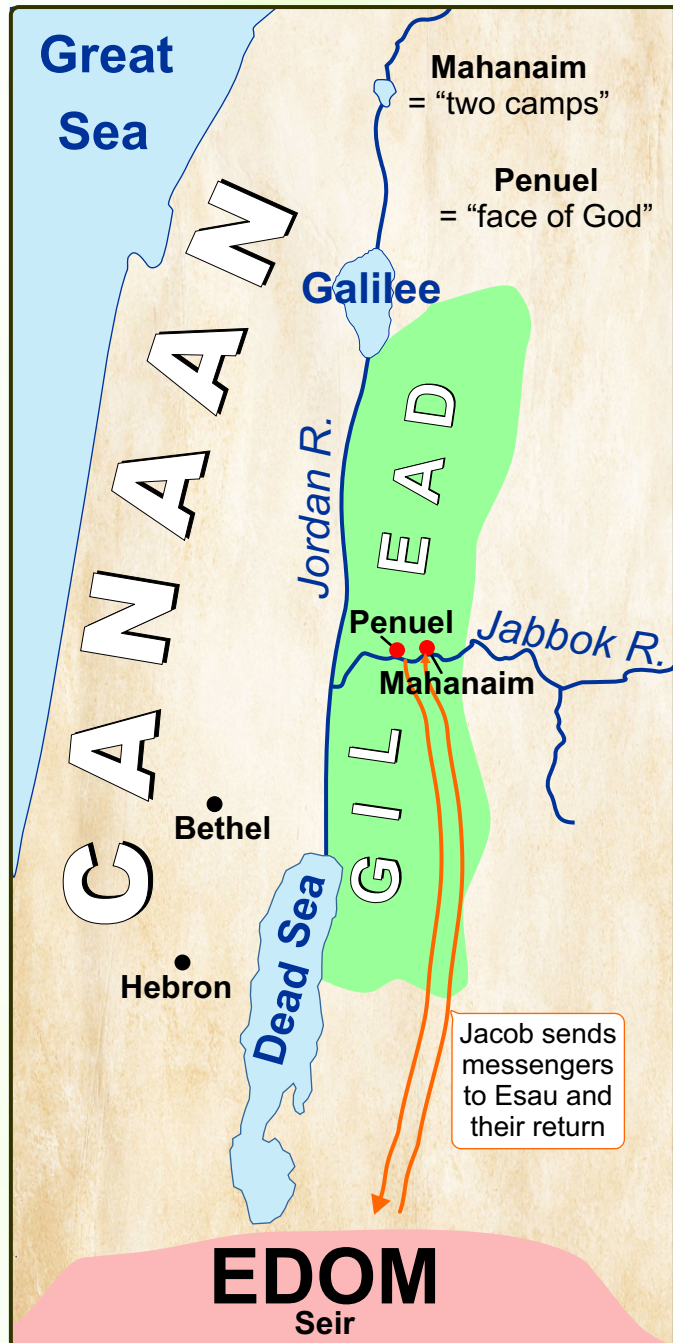


FEAR vs TRUST – GENESIS 32



● Jacob flees to Haran — Fear of Esau

Age 77 Ge.28:5

● Jacob flees from Laban to Canaan — Fear of Esau

Age 97 Ge.31

JACOB WRESTLES THE ANGEL OF THE LORD — GE.32:24-29

GOD SETTING THE CONDITIONS

- It was when Jacob was alone, having done everything he could to secure his own safety, that God came to him. Note that God took the initiative in wrestling with Jacob.
- God wanted all of Jacob's proud self-reliance and fleshly scheming, and came to take it symbolically by force.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

- This "man" was no mere man. He is Jesus, God in human flesh (Ho.12:4, "the Angel").
- The person is called a man, but the context implies it was a physical manifestation of Deity.
 - "For you have struggled with God and with men" (Ge.32:28)
 - "For I have seen God face to face" (Ge.32:30)

THE PHYSICAL WRESTLING

- No details of the fight were given, for it was just the preamble to the most important part, the dialogue.
- Though crippled and unable to win, Jacob clung to his Aggressor for a blessing.



DIALOGUE WITH CHANGE

- Jacob must have felt a sense of shame, admitting his name was "Jacob," meaning "con-man, sneaky, cheater." Yet, this was who he was, and Jacob had to admit it.
- Jacob did receive the blessing in the form of a new name, "Israel."
 - JACOB = "heel-catcher" or "deceiver"
 - ISRAEL = "God's fighter" or "He struggles with God"
- Jacob, the ambitious deceiver, became Israel, the one who struggles with God and overcomes.

SUMMARY or PURPOSE

- It was not Jacob's wrestling ability that was rewarded, but his tenacious dependent attitude upon God.
- Jacob thought the real enemy was outside of him, namely, Esau. The real enemy was his own carnal, fleshly nature, which had not yet been conquered by God.
- Jacob prevailed, in the sense of obtaining his request. By acknowledging his dependence on God as his deliverer, he received a new name.
- This was the blessing of being defeated by God. The believer's life is a Paradox.
- We all like to win. For believers in Christ, winning means surrendering to God.
- "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Ga.2:20). This is wrestling and surrendering.
- All believers have this wrestling everyday. We do things our way, or we do things God's way.