

## Genesis 32

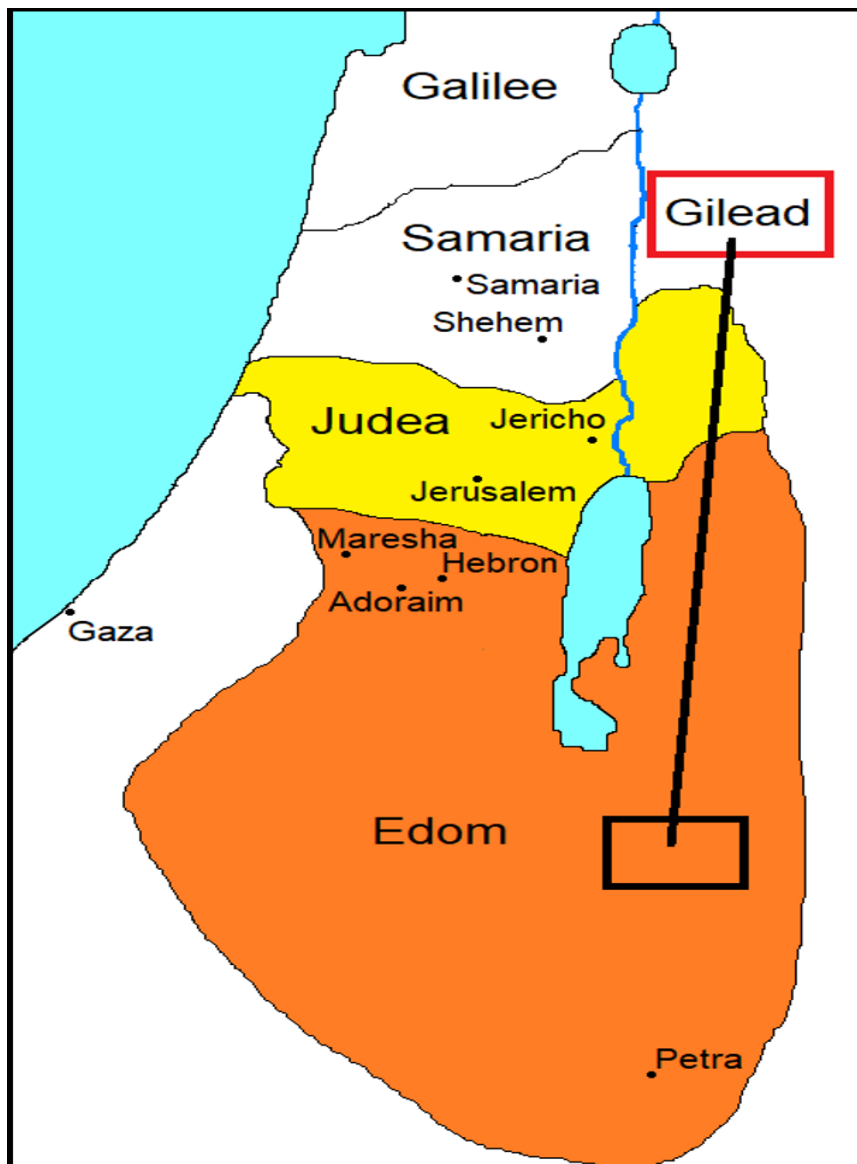
Verses 1- 3

**Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him.** <sup>2</sup> And when he saw them, Jacob said, “This is God’s camp.” So he named that place Mahanaim.

<sup>3</sup> Then Jacob sent messengers ahead of himself to his brother Esau **in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.**

Jacob left Gilead and was on his way to Edom to meet with his brother.

See Map 3205      Gilead to the Seir Mountains in Edom



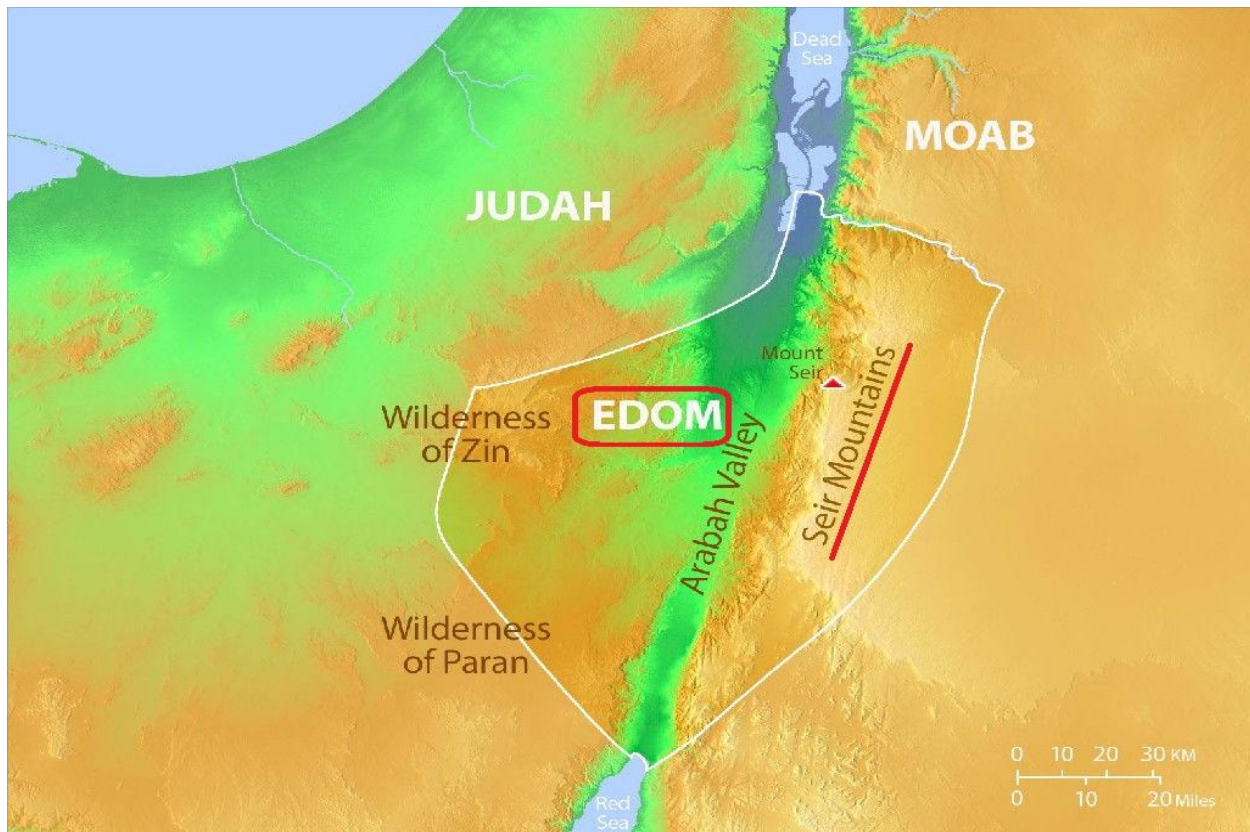
Mahanaim is a place somewhere between Gilead and the Sir mountains but the exact location is still unknown.

20 years ago Jacob was on his way to Haran when he had the vision of the ladder reaching to heaven and angels were ascending and descending. Now that Jacob had returned to Canaan, the angels of God met him.

In the first case he was fleeing the wrath of Esau and going to a foreign land. This time Jacob was coming home but he had to face his brother Esau. In both cases, Jacob needed assurance of God's presence and protection.

Esau was living south of Canaan in the land of Seir.

See map 3210



Verses 4 - 5

**<sup>4</sup> He commanded them, saying, “This is what you shall say to my lord Esau: ‘Your servant Jacob says the following: “I have resided with Laban, and stayed until now; <sup>5</sup> and I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent *messengers* to tell my lord, so that I may find favor in your sight.””’**

Jacob took the initiative to make it clear that he desired a friendly reception. However, letting Esau know how much he had prospered may not have been the best way to introduce his return. After all, Jacob had deceived Esau of the blessing before he left.

Verses 6 - 12

**<sup>6</sup> And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.”**

**<sup>7</sup> Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks, the herds, and the camels, into two companies;**

**<sup>8</sup> for he said, “If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jacob said, “God of my father Abraham and God**

**of my father Isaac, Lord, who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will make you prosper,’ <sup>10</sup> I am unworthy of all the favor and of all the faithfulness, which You have shown to Your servant; for with *only* my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. <sup>11</sup> Save me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me *and* the mothers with the children. <sup>12</sup> For You said, ‘I will assuredly make you prosper and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be counted.’”**

**<sup>6</sup> And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.”**

Jacob left home because he had angered Esau and then he left Haran for home because he had angered Laban. Not all of this was his fault, but neither was he blameless.

So Esau coming to meet him with 400 men should concern him but he should also remember how God had protected him over the last 20 years. In particular he should remember how God had met with Laban and told him to not to hurt Jacob in any way.

**<sup>7</sup> Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks, the herds, and the camels, into two companies;**

**<sup>8</sup> for he said, “If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape.”**

Jacob did two things to protect himself and his family:

1. He took some natural precaution by dividing his household into two companies.
2. Then he took some supernatural precaution by praying to God.

**<sup>12</sup> For You said, 'I will assuredly make you prosper and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be counted.'"**

In verses 9 thru 12 Jacob reminds God of the following:

1. God had told him to return to his country and to his relatives.
2. That he was unworthy of all that God had done for him.
3. He asked that God would save him and his family from Esau.
4. He reminded God that He had promised to make him prosper and make his descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be counted.

It is interesting how the patriarchs would remind God of his promises, making the obvious point that if they were killed then the promises of God would be nullified.

Verses 13 - 21

**<sup>13</sup> So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a gift for his brother Esau: <sup>14</sup> two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, <sup>15</sup> thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, *and* twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. <sup>16</sup> Then he placed *them* in the care of his servants, every flock by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between flocks." <sup>17</sup> And he commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these *animals* in front of you belong?' <sup>18</sup> then you shall say, 'These belong to your servant Jacob; it is a gift sent to my lord Esau. And behold, he also is behind us.'" <sup>19</sup> Then he commanded also the second and the third, and all those who followed the flocks, saying, "In this way you shall speak to Esau when you find him; <sup>20</sup> and you shall say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob also is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the gift that goes ahead of me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me." <sup>21</sup> So the gift passed on ahead of him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.**

<sup>13</sup> So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a gift for his brother Esau: <sup>14</sup> two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, <sup>15</sup> thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

This "present" to Esau included a minimum of 550 animals. Since camels rarely have more than one newborn, the 30 milking camels probably had 30 newborn. That would bring the total up to 580 animals.

<sup>16</sup> Then he placed *them* in the care of his servants, every flock by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between flocks."

The flocks were made up of each animal kind which included goats, sheep, camels, cattle and donkeys.

<sup>17</sup> And he commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these *animals* in front of you belong?' <sup>18</sup> then you shall say, '*These belong to your servant Jacob; it is a gift sent to my lord Esau.* And behold, he also is behind us.'"

Rebekah had promised to send word when Esau's anger had cooled, but no word had ever come, so Jacob believed he had to win over an angry brother.

See Genesis 27:45

<sup>43</sup> Now then, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban! <sup>44</sup> Stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury subsides, <sup>45</sup> until your brother's anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send word and get you from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?"

<sup>21</sup> So the gift passed on ahead of him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.

Jacob had asked God for help but he still found it important to have a well thought out plan and put it into place.

We do the same when we pray to God for healing and then go to our doctor and carefully follow his/her advice.

Verses 22 - 23

<sup>22</sup> Now he got up that same night and took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his eleven children, and crossed the shallow place of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

Jacob had 4 wives and at least 12 children, however, Diana and any other girls were not included in the count.

The Jabbok is a stream about halfway between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The name Jabbok means wrestler, the name given to it later in commemoration of Jacob's experience that night. Today the Jabbok is known as the Zerka.

See map 3215 and pic 3220







Verses 24 - 32

<sup>24</sup> Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When *the man* saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated while he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have contended with God and with men, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> And Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared." <sup>31</sup> Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his hip. <sup>32</sup> Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the tendon of the hip which is on the socket of the hip, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the tendon of the hip.

**<sup>24</sup> Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.**

Jacobs family and herds had crossed the stream and Jacob was alone, and it is at this point that he begins to wrestle with a man. This was not a vision or a dream, Jacob was actually wrestling with God (the pre-incarnate Christ).

**<sup>25</sup> When *the man* saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated while he wrestled with him.**

The wrestling went on thru the night but at some point the man simply touched Jacobs's hip and it was dislocated.

**<sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."**

Jacob wanted a blessing and was not willing to relent even though he was injured.

**<sup>28</sup> Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have contended with God and with men, and have prevailed."**

Israel means you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed. There is no doubt that Jacob had striven with men, Esau & Laban, and now he was wrestling with the Lord. Jacob wanted a blessing from God and would not let go until he got it. One can only assume that Jacob had great fear about facing Esau and he wanted to know that God would make their meeting be one of peace. So he clung to the Lord, and would not let go!

**<sup>30</sup> So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared."**

We know that no man has seen God, but Jacob did see a manifestation of God.

See John 1:18

**<sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; God the only Son, who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained *Him*.**