

## Genesis 32

Verses 1-2

**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.**

**Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him.**

Jacob left Gilead after his meeting with Laban

20 years ago Jacob was on his way to Haran when he had the vision of the ladder reaching to heaven, with God at the top

Now that Jacob had returned to Canaan, the angels of God met him

Why did Jacob receive a vision at these two times?

In the first case he was fleeing the wrath of Esau and going to a foreign land

This time Jacob was coming home but knew he had to face Esau

In both cases, Jacob needed assurance of God’s presence and protection

**And when he saw them, Jacob said, “This is God’s camp.” So he named that place Mahanaim.**

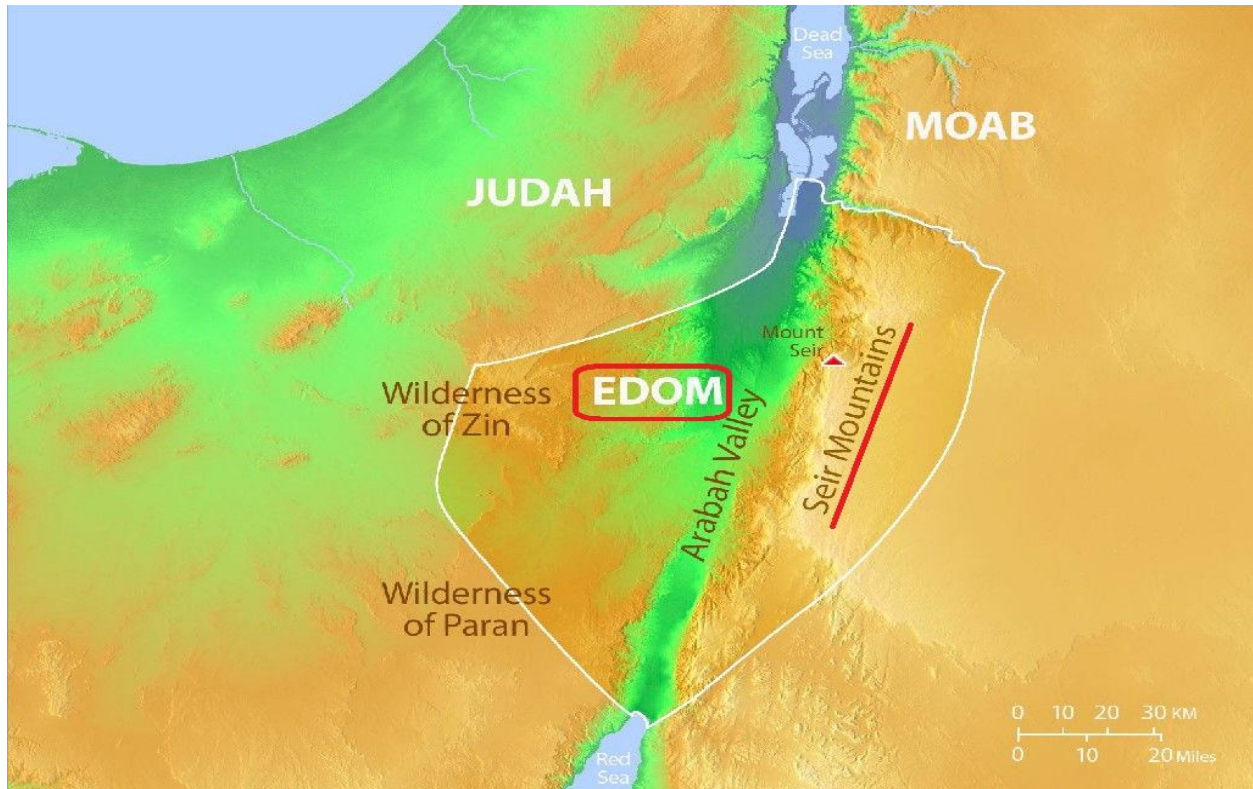
The word Mahanaim means, "Two hosts"

Verses 3 - 5

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

See Map 3205      Edom and the Seir Mountains



The wilderness of Zin and the wilderness of Paran are not correct on this map

Both of these wildernesses were east of the Arabah Valley

This was a common mistake by map makers because the location of Sinai was not in the Sinai Peninsula as thought but in Arabia as the Apostle Paul confirmed.

**I have sent to tell my lord, 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 now 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.”**

**<sup>7</sup> Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed;**

Jacob had left home because he had angered Esau

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 Jacob should also remember how God had protected him over the last 20 years

**If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape.**

Jacob did two things:

1. He took some natural precaution by dividing the companies
2. Then he took some supernatural precaution, he prayed

**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.’”**

Jacob reminded God that He was responsible for this part of the vow

And if Esau killed Jacob and or his family God’s word would be nullified

He had done all he could do and the Lord would have to do the rest

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.**

**Then he selected from what he had with him a gift for his brother Esau**

This "present" included a minimum of 550 animals

Since camels rarely have more than one newborn, the 30 milking camels probably had 30 newborn plus maybe 1 or 2 more

We don’t know how large the other groups were that followed but this gift gives us a good indication of Jacob’s enormous wealth

**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 Genesis27:45

**And he commanded also the second, and the third, and all that followed the herds, saying, in this manner shall you speak to Esau**

Jacob had asked God for help but he still found it important to secure 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

Verse 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.**

**He took his two wives, and his two female slaves, and his eleven children**

He had at least 12 children

But Diana and any other girls were not included in the count

**And crossed the shallow place of the Jabbok**

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 3210 and pic 3215





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 then Jacob wrestles with a man

However, this was not a vision or a dream, Jacob was actually wrestling with God

Apparently God had assumed a human form, perhaps 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

Jacob wanted a blessing and was not willing to relent regardless of the injury

**And he said, I will not let you go, except you bless me**

Jacob would not give up

**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

How did Jacob prevail?

He clung to the Lord, and would not let go!

**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 some form or representation of God

See John 1:18