

## Genesis 33

Verses 1- 3

**Then Jacob raised his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel, and the two slave women. <sup>2</sup> He put the slave women and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. <sup>3</sup> But he himself passed on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.**

**Esau was coming, and with him four hundred men**

There were at least two possibilities

1. Esau was still angry and they were coming to exact vengeance
2. Esau was glad to see his brother and they were along to celebrate his return

**He put the slave women and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last.**

It would seem Jacob arranged them in the order of their importance to him

**But he himself passed on ahead of them**

Jacob may have been scared, but he took the lead

If Esau had evil intentions, Jacob might save the others by his self-sacrifice

**And bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother**

If Esau was still angry, this act of humility might influence his brother

Humility is a good approach when meeting any possible enemy

Verses 4 -7

**<sup>4</sup> Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. <sup>5</sup> He raised his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, “Who are these with you?” So he said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” <sup>6</sup> Then the slave women came forward with their children, and they bowed down. <sup>7</sup> And Leah likewise came forward with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came forward with Rachel, and they bowed down.**

**And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept**

All the fear and worry by Jacob was for naught

Esau had become a man of influence and power in that area and he had forgiven Jacob

The 400 men that were with Esau were there to help him welcome his brother back

**<sup>5</sup> He raised his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, “Who are these with you?”**

Jacob had left 20 years ago as a single man

Now he was the husband of 4 women and the father of at least 12 kids

So Jacob was correct to say, “God has graciously given them to your servant”.

Verses 8 -11

**<sup>8</sup> And he said, “What do you mean by all this company which I have met?” And he said, “To find favor in the sight of my lord.” <sup>9</sup> But Esau said, “I have plenty, my brother; let what you have be your own.” <sup>10</sup> Jacob said, “No, please, if now I have found favor in your sight, then accept my gift from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me favorably. <sup>11</sup> Please accept my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty.” So he urged him, and he accepted *it*.**

### **What do you mean by all this company which I have met?**

Jacob had sent 3 herds ahead of him and his family the day before

The gift of 580 animals, and the other two herds that followed

Esau met the herds and those who were leading them before he reached Jacob

### **And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; let what you have be your own**

Esau was the leader of these 400 men

Obviously he had become rich and didn't need anything from Jacob

### **So he urged him, and he took it**

20 years ago Esau wanted to kill Jacob, but now he was glad to see him

Perhaps the many blessings that Esau had received helped him forgive his brother

Even though Esau had already forgiven him, Jacob urged him to accept the gift

### **Verses 12-17**

**<sup>12</sup> Then Esau said, "Let's journey on and go, and I will go ahead of you." <sup>13</sup> But he said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds that are nursing are a matter of concern to me. And if they are driven hard *just one day*, all the flocks will die. <sup>14</sup> Please let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will proceed at my leisure, at the pace of the cattle that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."**

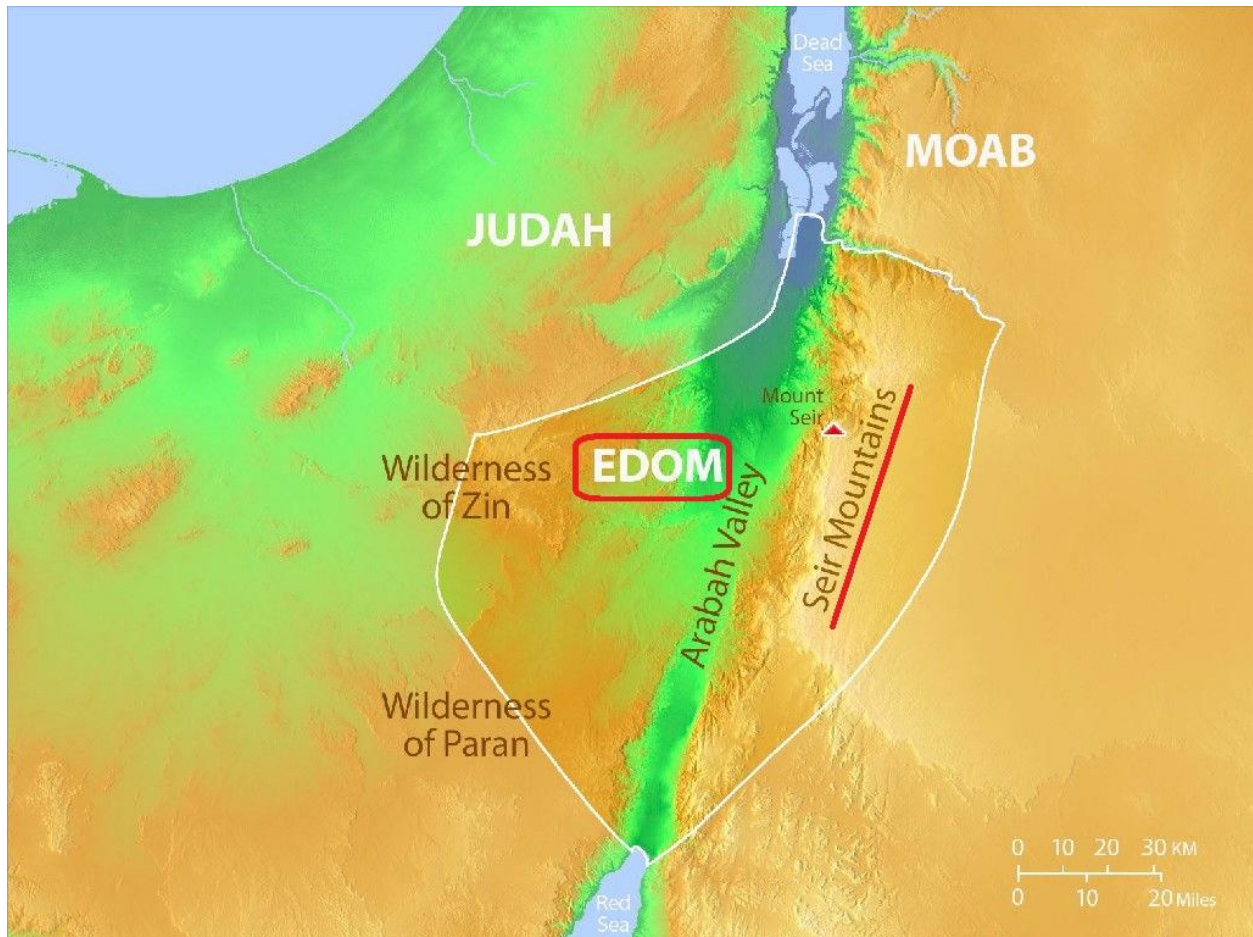
**<sup>15</sup> Then Esau said, "Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."**

**<sup>16</sup> So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. <sup>17</sup> But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.**

**12 Then Esau said, “Let’s journey on and go, and I will go ahead of you**

Esau wanted Jacob to follow him to his home in Seir

See map 3305



**14 Please let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will proceed at my leisure, at the pace of the cattle that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir.”**

Jacob indicates that he will visit him later

It wouldn't make sense to take all the herds along with them to visit Esau

Besides, they had just had a long journey and needed some rest

**<sup>15</sup> Then Esau said, “Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “What need is there?”**

The offer of an escort by Esau was a nice gesture, but it would have been an embarrassment to Jacob

**<sup>16</sup> So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. <sup>17</sup> But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.**

See map 3310





Esau went south to his home and Jacob went to Succoth

Succoth means booths

It was named by Jacob for the shelters he erected there for his cattle

Verses 18-20

**<sup>18</sup> Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city. <sup>19</sup> He bought the plot of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money. <sup>20</sup> Then he erected there an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.**

**<sup>18</sup> Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem**

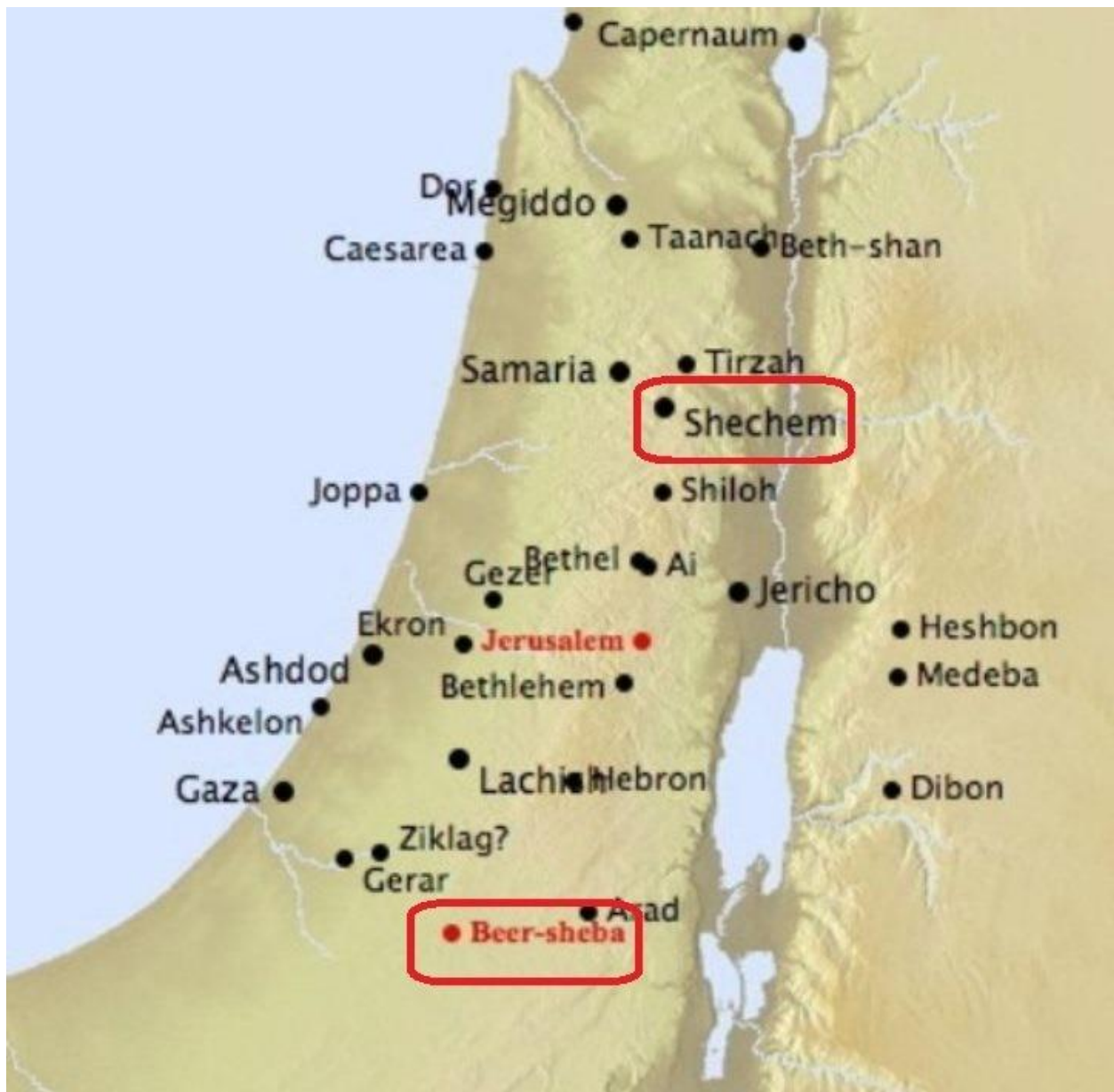
See map 3315



Jacob lived in Beersheba before he went to Harran

Now he is back in Canaan, but farther north in the city of Shechem

See Map 3320



Jacob will stay in Shechem for 10 or 12 years

**<sup>19</sup> He bought the plot of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money.**

This family is central to the events of the next chapter

This was the first property that Jacob owned in the Promised Land.

It later served as a burial plot; and Joseph's bones were buried there

See Joshua 24:32

See pics 3325, 3330, and 3335







Jacob also dug a well there

See Picks 3340, 3345, and 3350







The well of Jacob was never mentioned in the O.T

But John 4:6 speaks of it

Jesus taught the Samaritan woman at this well

**<sup>20</sup> Then he erected there an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.**

Jacob followed the example of Abraham who built an altar wherever he went

**El-Elohe-Israel means:**

Mighty is the God of Israel, or God is the God of Israel

There are many names for God in the O.T.