

| <p align="center">BIBLE TEXT New International Version</p> | <p align="center">OBSERVATIONS What does the text say?</p> | <p align="center">INTERPRETATION & QUESTIONS What does the text mean to all Christians?</p> | <p align="center">APPLICATION What does the text mean to me?</p> |
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| <p>First IBS Division: Genesis 32:1-21</p> <p><i>Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau</i></p> <p>^{1 [a]}Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ² When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is the camp of God!" So he named that place Mahanaim.^[b]</p> <p>³ Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. ⁴ He instructed them: "This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: 'Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now. ⁵ I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, male and female servants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes. '"</p> <p>⁶ When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."</p> <p>⁷ In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups,^[c] and the flocks and herds and camels as well. ⁸ He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, ^[d] the group^[e] that is left may escape."</p> <p>⁹ Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' ¹⁰ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. ¹¹ Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. ¹² But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted. '"</p> | | | |

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| <p>¹³ He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau: ¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵ thirty female camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. ¹⁶ He put them in the care of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, "Go ahead of me, and keep some space between the herds."</p> <p>¹⁷ He instructed the one in the lead: "When my brother Esau meets you and asks, 'Who do you belong to, and where are you going, and who owns all these animals in front of you?' ¹⁸ then you are to say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and he is coming behind us.'"</p> <p>¹⁹ He also instructed the second, the third and all the others who followed the herds: "You are to say the same thing to Esau when you meet him. ²⁰ And be sure to say, 'Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.'" For he thought, "I will pacify him with these gifts I am sending on ahead; later, when I see him, perhaps he will receive me." ²¹ So Jacob's gifts went on ahead of him, but he himself spent the night in the camp.</p> <p>Footnotes: a. Genesis 32:1 In Hebrew texts 32:1-32 is numbered 32:2-33. b. Genesis 32:2 <i>Mahanaim</i> means <i>two camps</i>. c. Genesis 32:7 Or <i>camps</i> d,e. Genesis 32:8 Or <i>camp</i></p> | | | |
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| <p>Second IBS Division: Genesis 32:22-32 <i>Jacob Wrestles With God</i></p> <p>²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,^[f] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." ²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel,^[g] saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." ³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel,^[h] and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.</p> <p>Footnotes: f. Genesis 32:28 <i>Israel</i> probably means <i>he struggles with God</i>. g. Genesis 32:30 <i>Peniel</i> means <i>face of God</i>. h. Genesis 32:31 Hebrew <i>Penuel</i>, a variant of <i>Peniel</i></p> | | | |

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| <p>Third IBS Division: Genesis 33:1-20 Jacob Meets Esau ¹ Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. ² He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. ³ He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. ⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. ⁵ Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked. Jacob answered, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant." ⁶ Then the female servants and their children approached and bowed down. ⁷ Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down. ⁸ Esau asked, "What's the meaning of all these flocks and herds I met?" "To find favor in your eyes, my lord," he said. ⁹ But Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself." ¹⁰ "No, please!" said Jacob. "If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. ¹¹ Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I</p> | | | |

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| <p>need.” And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it. ¹² Then Esau said, “Let us be on our way; I’ll accompany you.” ¹³ But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are tender and that I must care for the ewes and cows that are nursing their young. If they are driven hard just one day, all the animals will die. ¹⁴ So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the flocks and herds before me and the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.” ¹⁵ Esau said, “Then let me leave some of my men with you.” “But why do that?” Jacob asked. “Just let me find favor in the eyes of my lord.” ¹⁶ So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. ¹⁷ Jacob, however, went to Sukkoth, where he built a place for himself and made shelters for his livestock. That is why the place is called Sukkoth.^[a] ¹⁸ After Jacob came from Paddan Aram,^[b] he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. ¹⁹ For a hundred pieces of silver,^[c] he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. ²⁰ There he set up an altar and called it El Elohe Israel.^[d]</p> <p>Footnotes: a. Genesis 33:17 <i>Sukkoth</i> means <i>shelters</i>. b. Genesis 33:18 That is, Northwest Mesopotamia c. Genesis 33:19 Hebrew <i>hundred kesitahs</i>; a kesitah was a unit of money of unknown weight and value. d. Genesis 33:20 <i>El Elohe Israel</i> can mean <i>El is the God of Israel</i> or <i>mighty is the God of Israel</i>.</p> | | | |
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Holy Spirit Space: Looking Back at Our Own Stories