

Bible/College Class Notes – God’s Great Plans – Lesson 32

God Changes Jacob’s Name to Israel.

This week we learn how God ‘met’ Jacob, showing him more of His Wonderful Plan of Grace.

*And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob:
... but Israel shall be thy name”* Genesis 35 v10

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Genesis 32v1-12 (Jacob returns to the Promised Land)	
Monday	Genesis 32v13-32 (Jacob ‘wrestles’ with God all night)	
Tuesday	Genesis 33v1-20 (God answers Jacob’s prayer)	
Wednesday	Hosea 12v1-14 (700BC, God to judge Israel’s sin)	
Thursday	Psalms 118v1-13 (The Lord’s mercy lasts for all eternity)	
Friday	Psalms 118v14-20 (The Lord’s goodness lasts for ever)	
Saturday	Psalms 119v25-40 (Looking to God for daily strength)	

Important Lesson for us today: *We have to be serious about seeking to know the Lord as our Saviour. Every person who sincerely seeks to know the Lord and receive His forgiveness will experience a struggle within their souls, a ‘wrestling’ within their consciences. This can be over a period of time until the Holy Spirit brings us to the realisation that our sin is very offensive to our Holy God. We must come to an end of thinking, ‘Our sin is not that bad, and we are good enough for God’. Do not seek the Lord, with insincere tears like Esau did, without true repentance. Earnestly pray for the help of The Holy Spirit to change your heart enabling you to repent, trust and believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, and to know His forgiveness and love. Be like Jacob and continue to ‘wrestle’ in prayer with God until He answers by giving you new life and eternal peace to your soul.*

Hymn 46v2 – Let us be still in the presence of the Lord our Almighty God:

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| 1. God is our refuge and our strength,
Our ever-present aid,
And, therefore, though the earth remove,
We will not be afraid;
Though hills amidst the seas be cast,
Though foaming waters roar,
And though the mighty billows shake
The mountains on the shore. | 3. ‘Be still and know that I am God,
O’er all exalted high;
The subject nations of the earth
My name shall magnify.’
The Lord of hosts is on our side
Our safety to secure;
The God of Jacob is for us
A refuge strong and sure. |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

God Brings Jacob Back to the Promised Land.

• Background to Today’s Lesson.

- We meet up with Jacob 20 years after his taking Isaac’s blessing by deception.
- Esau planned to kill his brother, so Jacob had to run away to Haran for safety.
- At Bethel Jacob found God’s forgiveness. God gave him a wonderful dream of a ladder reaching from Earth to Heaven with Angels ascending and descending.
- God repeated the promises to Jacob that He had made to Abraham, and Isaac.

• Jacob, Now a Rich Man, Starts the Long Journey Home to Bethel.

- The Lord had blessed him with a large family, many servants, 1,000’s of animals.
- Jacob sends a message to Esau telling him of his planned return to Bethel.
- Hearing that Esau is approaching him with 400 armed men, Jacob is very afraid and asks himself, ‘Does my brother still hate me?’, ‘Does he still want to kill me?’
- Jacob sends generous gifts of animals, in droves, hoping this will soften Esau.
- Jacob reaches Peniel, about 45 miles from Bethel, and although he prays to God asking for protection and help, he panics by separating his company into two groups, sending them ahead, while he cowardly stays alone at the rear.

• God Meets Jacob That Night and ‘Wrestles’ with Him All Night.

- Jacob comes to God in prayer - but suddenly finds himself in a mysterious and great struggle which lasts all night - a ‘man’ wrestling with him. **Who could this be?**
- He discovers this is the **Eternal, Pre-Incarnate Son of God - The Lord Jesus Christ.**
- The Lord dislocates his thigh to remind him of this ‘never to be forgotten night’.
- Towards daybreak the Lord says to Jacob, ‘**Let me go**’.
- Jacob answers, ‘**I will not let you go unless you bless me and help me**’.
- The Lord blesses him, changing his name from Jacob to Israel – ‘**A Prince of God**’, one who had prevailed in earnest prayer with Almighty God and survived.
- Jacob called this place Peniel, ‘**I have seen the face of God and have prevailed**’.

• The Lord, the Winner, Submits and Withdraws from Jacob.

- Jacob would always remember that he must daily depend upon the Lord for His blessing, guidance, and help, continually acknowledging his own weakness.
- With strong conviction in his heart, he trusted God, believing His promises.
- With the Lord on his side, and no longer afraid, he went boldly to meet Esau.
- God had prepared Esau’s heart to welcome Jacob with warmth and friendliness.
- The Lord continued to bless Jacob and his family through all the trials of his life.

We too, can have this relationship of complete faith and trust in the Living God, by putting our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, taking Him as our Saviour.

Have you experienced the conflict of conscience within your soul as God reveals the vileness of your sin – unbelief, pride, selfishness, lust, hatred, and wilful disobedience?

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”. Philippians 4v6.