



VAYISHLACH - HE SENT

Genesis 32:4 to 36:43

Obadiah 1:1-21

1 Peter 1:9 to 2:12

Jacob's Life: Part Three

Prologue

Examining the earthly realm of the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* (called in Hebrew *the olam hazeh*) versus the heavenly realm of *The Tree of Life* (*olam haba*), we see Jacob's agony of having to leave his family for the wilderness. There he took hold of God/*Elohim*, the Rock of his salvation, to ease his soul and take comfort. In doing so, God/*Elohim* revealed to Jacob, by way of a dream, the heavenly realm of the *olam haba*, which Jacob had not seen previously. By giving him heavenly eyes, God/*Elohim* showed Jacob, that there was a better approach to life. But first, he must learn the walk and discipleship of God's/*Elohim* kingdom protocol.

As Abraham's grandson, Jacob was not only the inheritor of the Covenant but also of the Promised Seed. Therefore, he first had to recognize the priestly position of his calling. It was in the understanding of the heavenly principles that he would receive the full benefits of his walk and experience God's/*Elohim* heavenly Kingdom on earth, as priests are to be the caretakers of His earthly Kingdom (Isaiah 32:1). Jacob also needed to understand the behavior of holiness, be able to recognize it, and be in agreement with its requirements for the Spirit of the Holy One/*Ruach HaKodesh* to instruct and guide him. That knowledge would lead to the deliverance and circumcision of his heart. This instruction is the same for believers also. When believers walk in the revelation that the *Tree of Life* builds on holiness, the heart will open to trust, sanctification, redemption, and righteousness (Revelation 1:6).

Even though Jacob had this Divine appointment, we will see that he left Peniel, the place of commitment and decision, with a mix in his heart. The blending of Kingdom principles with his earthly nature added years to his sanctification process. God/*Elohim* used these many trials he endured under his uncle Laban, to do a work in Jacob's heart. Indeed, this helped move Jacob from a state of *everyday* lifestyle to a *kingdom* lifestyle. The times of servitude were preparation to build Jacob into a mature man of God/*Elohim* that fortify him for what lay ahead. However, when it came time for Jacob to return to the Land, God/*Elohim* stopped him. The residual of mixed lifestyles needed to end. God/*Elohim* wrestled this point with Jacob all night. Finally, Jacob surrendered his earthly nature and came to the end of *himself*. By doing so, he transformed into the *olam haba*. In this ultimate surrender of his will, Jacob began to walk in a kingdom

lifestyle. As a result, the enemy no longer had authority over him. In Jacob's maturity, he received the name *Israel*.

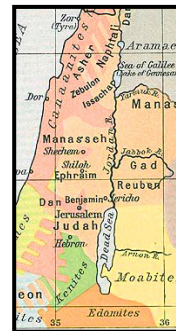
🔥 **Isaiah 62:10-12** “Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! Indeed Yahweh has proclaimed to the end of the world: ‘Say to the daughter of Zion, *Surely your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.*’ And they shall call them *The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD*; and you shall be called *Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.*”

Jacob Returns

After farewells to Laban, Jacob turned his heart and family toward home. He had no idea how his brother Esau would react concerning Jacob's twenty years of absenteeism. Would Esau still want to take his life? Would he and his family be at risk and fear for their lives, or would all be forgiven? These thoughts closed in on Jacob as he journeyed closer to home. Along the way, God/*Elohim* sent messengers to encourage and strengthen him before meeting his brother. That so touched Jacob that he named the place *Mahanaim*, which means *two camps* - “*This is God's/Elohim camp*” (Genesis 32:2).

🔥 **Hebrews 1:14** “Are not all angels [*messengers*] ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation [*deliverance*]?”

Mahanaim is situated on the Jabbok River, a tributary that leads to the Jordan River, in the Transjordan region. A double meaning lay behind the name, as Jacob's two wives and their children were also two camps, prophetic of the two Houses that would come from Leah and Rachel called *the House of Israel* and *the House of Judah*.



Remembering in the last lesson, that when we come to *The Rock* (the altar of God/*Elohim*), it is *the place* where the enemy is defeated. It is also *the place* where mighty men of God/*Elohim* are revealed, elevated, and promoted to real emissaries in God's/*Elohim* Kingdom (*olam haba*), while still living in this world (*olam hazeh*). In our death to self-will, is life and liberty. By following God's/*Elohim* instructions, Jacob's time at the Jabbok River is a living parable of how believers are to surrender their lives entirely to God/*Elohim*. If we find we are still struggling with issues in our lives, maybe it is time to meet Yeshua at the River of living water.

- The Messiah died for us while *we* were still sinful (*walking in unrighteous ways*) (Romans 5:8-10).
- Abraham was *uncircumcised* when he received the Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 17:23).

When people come to Yeshua, they *are* redeemed. They then begin their journey of learning *how* to walk in their redemption that leads to holiness. Progressive revelation through God's/*Elohim* Word teaches believers what a righteous, sanctified, and holy lifestyle is. Learning right from

wrong and how to choose wisely are the many principles and tools in His Word that lead to a circumcised heart. The heart that is wholly surrendered allows Yeshua to dwell fully within. That is the process of sanctification, which gives believers the ability to walk responsibly in the marriage Covenant of Yeshua, their Bridegroom.

✚ **Romans 5:8-10** “But God/*Elohim* demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ/*Messiah* died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God/*Elohim* through the death of His Son [*Yeshua*], much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Salvation Of The Soul – The Goal Of Our Faith

Salvation is often used in Scripture to encompass several works of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*. For this study, we are focusing on two parts. Yeshua in Hebrew, means Salvation. Salvation also refers to God/*Elohim* as the Deliverer, Delivery, Power, and Authority on the earth. When His people come to salvation and give their hearts to Yeshua, they experience a heart connection likened to what Adam and Eve had in the Garden. Their spirit life was joined to *THE* Spirit Life, Yeshua, called *the salvation of the spirit*.

Note: *Salvation of the Spirit* and *salvation of the soul* are not identified as two unattached or independent entities. They are one unit working together.

The salvation of the soul is when the redeemed are instructed to *take off old corrupt, carnal ways* and leave them at the altar before *putting on new garments of holiness*. Those old ways would include behaviors such as slander, a bitterness of heart, or that which perverts the soul. Yeshua’s people cannot put His clean, new, linen holy garments over old immoral, dirty ones. Otherwise, *they* will bring contamination upon themselves. His people must learn to take responsibility for past behaviors by repenting and surrendering them before moving forward. Some have failed in taking responsibility for their sinful nature, and many have not learned *how* to resolve their past issues, thus never fully experience the new life Yeshua has gifted them. Only when the old nature is surrendered, *and* Yeshua is allowed to circumcise the heart, is the soul redeemed. That was what Jacob was about to face at the Jabbok River.

✚ **Ephesians 4:20-27** “But you [*believer*] have not so learned Christ/*Messiah*, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus/*Yeshua*: that you [*believer*] put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you [*believer*] put on the new man which was created according to God/*Elohim*, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore [*believer*], putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we [*believers*] are members of one another. ‘Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”

✚ **Matthew 9:16-17** “No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

One Flesh

Mankind is made of three facets or elements. *If* we have Yeshua's characteristics and order in our heart, all three will act as *one* in perfect harmony. The Hebrew Scriptures say God/Elohim made us *one/echad* with Him. Therefore, we are to demonstrate this if we are called His ambassadors or witnesses on the earth. We are made of,

- A physical body
 - Our soul – נֶפֶשׁ *nepesh* – Strong's 5315
 - And spirit – שְׁפָט *chai napash* – Strong's 2416/5314
- } They are all *one/echad*


Believers can only be *one/echad* if they agree on earth with the Heavenly witnesses.

✠ **1 John 5:6-8** “This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because **the Spirit is truth**. For there are three that bear witness **in heaven: *the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit***; and these three are *one/echad*. And there are three that bear witness **on earth: *the Spirit, the water, and the blood***; and these three agree as *one/echad*.” (KJV/NKJ only)


When believers agree with the heavenly witnesses *on earth*, the regenerated human spirit is joined with *God's/Elohim Spirit*. The work of our soul (*the seat of our will, emotions, and desires*) is to conform to *the Spirit of Truth* and not to our feelings or emotions. We can only know what the Spirit of Truth is when we look into His Word for our standard of *Truth*. When we do, we will come into agreement with the *Spirit of the Holy One* in our hearts. That work God/Elohim asks *us* to do.

The Salvation of the *Spirit* is meeting Yeshua (born again). At this first meeting, we are still in an uncircumcised, fragmented, and scattered state, mixed with all kinds of doctrines, cultures, and beliefs. We still have a blending that caused us to miss the mark for our direction, purpose, responsibility, and identity in Him. Once we became born again, He brings us to *His altar*. The brazen altar is where we place those old dishonoring characteristics before Him and give our lives wholly to Him. That is the place where all confusion and frustration stops. Thus, there is no obstacle preventing us from preparing our hearts before Him.

If we struggle with hindrances in our lives *after* we have given our lives to Yeshua, it is usually found in our thoughts and that which influences our beliefs. Our job is to take responsibility for rogue philosophies and behaviors that are not in agreement with His Truth, repent, and wash/*mikvah* (*for a change in status*) before entering His presence. That heart action is called *sanctification of the soul* and is the transforming power that comes from within, from what God/Elohim has already accomplished by the power of Yeshua's death (*blood/water*) and resurrection. The source of this life-changing power is *His Witness/Spirit* living within us and only found if we are fully in agreement with His heavenly witness on earth. The fruit produced by our agreement to His Truth is *sanctification and holiness for the redeemed*. The fruit of sanctification will not only be seen in our lives but also seen in the fruit produced in the lives of our children – the next generation, *as they are the manifested fruit of the salvation of our soul - the goal of our faith (salvation of the spirit)*.

 **1 Peter 1:9 to 2:3** “[*You born again believer are*] receiving the end of your faith - *the salvation of your souls*. Of this **salvation** [*salvation of the soul, which is separate from salvation of your spirit*] the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you [*those who already believe in Yeshua*], searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ/Messiah who was in them [*the prophets*] was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ/Messiah and the glories that would follow. To them [*the prophets*] it [*the salvation of your soul*] was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us [*believers*] they [*the prophets*] were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things which angels desire to look into. Therefore [*believers*] gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your hope* fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you [*salvation of the soul*] at the revelation of Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach [*when you meet Him at the altar*]; as obedient children [*to His word/the Gospel*], not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’ And if you [*believer*] call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves [*believer*] throughout the time of your stay *here* [*on earth*] in fear; knowing that you [*believer*] were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ/Messiah, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you [*believer*] who through Him believe in God/Elohim, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God/Elohim. Since you [*believer*] have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God/Elohim which lives and abides forever, because ‘All flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD/Yahweh endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you [*believer*]. Therefore [*believer*], laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you [*believer*] may grow thereby, if indeed you [*believer*], have tasted that the Lord/Adonai *is* gracious.”

The salvation of the soul, as expressed in the Scripture above (1 Peter 1:9-2:3), is for future generations. If the soul is not brought into check, Scripture says that all sin is the *sin of dishonor*, which can travel to the third and fourth generation. Sin can also be active in a believer even after coming to Yeshua (*salvation of the spirit*). Our job as believers is to identify that sin and repent of it (*salvation of the soul*). When believers take responsibility, repent, and walk away from the carnal nature, their overcoming can change even the *DNA* or *status* in their next generations.

 **Exodus 34:7** “visiting the iniquity [*generational sins of dishonor*] of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation” (Numbers 14:18).

If believers repent, they can cleanse their DNA/status and future status of generations. Instead of passing on curses to their children, the next generation will inherit blessings. That is a biblical principle. If believers sow dishonor, dishonor will be sown into their children, which in turn will pass with more intensity to their children's children. The salvation of *our soul* is seen in the fruit of our children's walks, as all life is in the blood. By repenting and walking according to God's/*Elohim* instructions, we can sow a pure bloodline into our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Therefore, it is critical that we take care of *how* we walk, *how* we treat others, and *how* we train up the next generation, as our fruit will reflect in their hearts according to God's/*Elohim* holy order (Leviticus 17:11).

📖 **Deuteronomy 28:2** “[*Repent*] And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you [*and future generations*], because you obey the voice of the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*.”

📖 **2 Chronicles 30:9** “For if you return to the LORD/*Yahweh*, your brethren and your children *will be treated* with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* is gracious and merciful, and will not turn *His* face from you if you return to Him.”

The prophets in 1 Peter 1:9-12 looked forward to *our day* – meaning *we are the salvation of their souls* – thus, they walked in obedience to Yeshua not only for their soul but ours as well, as we are *their inheritance* – the salvation of *their* souls and future generations. The prophets understood that we, believers who are in Yeshua, are the inheritors of the blood Covenant God/*Elohim* made with Abraham (*Galatians 3:8*). Because the prophets were in Yeshua (*salvation of the spirit*) **and** walked in His principles (*salvation of the soul*), they could *see our day*, as the Promise was to the *Seed* of Abraham. It is the same with us. When the generations walk in Yeshua's Torah principles (*Spirit and Truth, in power, and authority*) and pass these to the next generations, we are actually looking at *the salvation of our souls (His characteristics) to a thousand generations* (*Galatians 3:8,16*).

📖 **Deuteronomy 7:9** “Know therefore that the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* is God/*Elohim*; He is the faithful God/*Elohim*, keeping His Covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands.”

📖 **Psalms 105:8-10** “He remembers His Covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the Covenant He made with Abraham, the oath He swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting Covenant.”

📖 **Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 6-9** “These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

It Is Finished!

Like Jacob, it is time for us (*believers*) to deal with our past. We must leave all *idols* and *beliefs* of the heart that cause our behavior to oppose our Bridegroom's lifestyle, and not look back. That may include idols such as lust, material hunger, social status, or pride issues. Believers may be dealing with painful memories of past hurts that have caused the heart to form scar tissue and unyielding walls of bitterness or unforgiveness within. Matters of unhealed wounds from false accusations or verbal abuse can lead to a victim mentality. All these can cause self-imprisonment along with a complex flow of fears, stresses, anxieties, and guilt that encumber the believer in grave clothes. If these issues are not resolved or repented for, they can lead to disease, a loss of spiritual and/or physical life in a believer. Unforgiveness invites a bitterroot spirit that can manifest as a spirit of accusation against self and others, causing emotional outbursts of fear, anger, resentment, control, jealousy, defense, hatred, accusation, and discord. If unattended, these behaviors can lead to physical illnesses or even entrapment of their life that causes others to walk in servitude around them to keep the peace. Some may also develop a compulsive obsessiveness driven by a need to feel safe. All these emotions can darken the world of a believer and create mannerisms that bring division instead of healing. A growing indenture to dishonor (sin), as Jacob had, is called the fruit of the sinful nature. That is why *salvation of the soul* is so important for a believer to understand. To heal, God's/*Elohim* people need to take responsibility and repent. Yeshua said, "*It is finished!*" (John 19:30).

Sadly, there are many hearts not willing to let go of deep-seated issues. Does our heart hold peace, tenderness, and joy, or does it yield bitter scar tissue that is allowed to continue? Have we become so fear-based and control driven that we have replaced Yeshua's truth for manmade traditions? Do we walk in denial suppressed with a work ethic of perfectionism? Are we foolish enough to think that hurt areas can be hidden or even forgotten? All of these issues pervert and prevent Yeshua from transforming damaged hearts. Will we forsake all repressed areas to follow after Him, *the Savior of our soul*?

For those who have yet to experience life at the altar or have not yet released forgiveness, they cannot fully enter into real redemption, which leads to healing in the Messiah, until they do. It is time for us to forgive and let go. Yeshua died to take the pain of all those memories and past hurts *far away forever*. He did this so He could redeem what was lost of Him in us. There is hope. Like Jacob, it is time to meet our Creator and deal with our past. New life is found only in Him. That is called salvation of the soul, the new wineskin (soul) for the new wine (spirit). The sooner we understand that our identity is in Him, and trust, the sooner we can have liberty and genuine life. We must join Jacob at the river and wrestle out that old nature within to enter holiness and the new life Yeshua died to offer - *the delivery that leads to the salvation of our soul – the goal of our faith*.

✚ **Romans 7:5** "For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death."

✚ **Romans 7:18** "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

✚ **Romans 8:8** "Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God/*Elohim*."

📖 **Romans 8:13-14** “For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God/*Elohim* are sons of God/*Elohim*.”

📖 **Deuteronomy 32:9** “For the LORD/*Yahweh*’s portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.”

Fear or Faith? Jacob Prepares To Meet Esau Genesis 32

In preparation for their meeting, Jacob sends messengers ahead to his brother Esau in Edom. They presented him with gifts that best represented his lifestyle and possessions in hopes of soothing the difficulty between them. As mentioned earlier, Jacob was dealing with idols in his heart, plus he was full of fear from his past dealings with Esau. When the messengers returned, they conveyed that Esau was indeed coming to meet Jacob, but Esau was meeting him with his assets - a company of four hundred men (Genesis 32:6).

Even though Jacob was successful and had amassed a vast fortune of flocks, herds, servants, along with his beautiful wives and children (had it all so to speak), God/*Elohim* was still after his heart. Believers cannot hide behind what *they* have accomplished, or in the material wealth *they* have accumulated and expected a kingdom walk *without holiness*. Jacob’s emotions were locked in deceit. That fact was exposed before meeting his brother, as it was a threat to him. Therefore, he sent offerings of appeasement ahead. However, his gifts were rooted in fear with the possibility of retaliation. Retaliation is rooted in resentment, and resentment is rooted in unforgiveness. All these emotions belong to the principality of bitterness, which revealed Jacob still had unclean principalities operating in his life. He was self-reliant on *his* success; therefore, he had not completely surrendered his life to God/*Elohim*. In other words, Jacob lacked *salvation of his soul* (Hebrews 12:15).

Taking matters into his hands, Jacob divided his people and flocks into *two camps*, saying, “*If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape.*” Only after did Jacob seek God/*Elohim* and cry out in the wilderness reminding Him of His promise. “*Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper.*” Jacob continued,

📖 **Genesis 32:9-12** “I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff [*the Tree of Life, the Torah, the Gospel*] when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become *two groups*. 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. 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.*’”

Jacob had to face the manipulation of his past before he could move forward into his future. However, with fear continuing to be his driving force, after praying, Jacob prepared a gift for his brother. Dividing the animals into five groups (*symbolic of grace in the Gospel/Torah and the*

future five books of Moses), he instructed his servants that when the time came, they were to present them to Esau, saying “*Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.*”

In Genesis 3, we noticed that after Adam had lost his position of authority (not his salvation), man’s desire to please God/*Elohim* was replaced with a desire to achieve by man’s own efforts. We observed this behavior in the offering Cain made. He chose man’s preference over the Godly principle. If it looks good to man, that is what man offers regardless of what is acceptable before God/*Elohim*. Offering our righteousness is idolatry, which comes from worshiping *the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil* and has nothing to do with *the holiness* of His Kingdom. In doing so, we are saying, “*we do not recognize God’s/Elohim Sovereignty, His Word, Ownership, or Universal Right Order.*” In essence, it is rebellion and unbelief (Isaiah 64:6).

Habitual excuses were woven into Jacob’s character, having come from the iniquities of the third and fourth generations before him. It would take a face-to-face encounter with God/*Elohim* for the heart to change. At this point in his journey, Jacob could no longer use his scheming ways, as they were not acceptable before a *holy God/Elohim*. God/*Elohim* had pronounced the Covenant over Abraham, Isaac, and now Jacob. Each patriarch underwent *salvation of the soul* to experience this heart change before the Covenant could fully be realized upon them, as God’s/*Elohim* Kingdom is not built on bad characteristics but *holiness*. Circumcision is the work of the Spirit of the *Holy One*. What we are about to witness in Jacob is the death of the *old sinful nature/olam hazeh* and the birth of a *new man* after God’s/*Elohim* own heart.

📖 **Ezekiel 18:30-31** “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD/*Adonai Elohim*. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?”

Jacob Wrestles

With the offerings in place, Jacob settled down for the evening. During the night, he woke and took his two wives, his maidservants, and his eleven sons across the Jabbok River. Jacob then sent all his possessions over. He had come to the place of emptying. Jabbok in Hebrew, means *pouring out* or *emptying*. With his family and possessions safely relocated, Jacob was alone. It was at that time he came to realize that his human strength and abilities were not enough. His diplomacy, his works, his riches, and all that he had accumulated could not save him.

Jacob had come to the place of self-emptying, a place called *Jabbok*, where every human effort and resource had been surrendered. He gave up trying to do everything in his own strength. He gave up trying to pretend. There is nothing wrong with using one’s intellect and talents but anointing comes through humility, holiness, and a surrendered heart. Only then can the infilling of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* lead our lives. That is called *salvation of the soul*.

When Jacob was alone, *a man* wrestled with him until daybreak. Instead of self-effort, Jacob reached for the new wineskin (soul) with the new wine (spirit) offered and released all sense of his human performance, ability, security, preference, and feelings to receive deliverance – the *salvation of the soul*. Near the end, the man saw that Jacob was ready. He touched Jacob’s socket

wrenching his hip. The man said, “*Let me go, for it is daybreak.*” Jacob replied, “*I will not let you go unless you bless me.*”

Notice that Jacob was in the wilderness. Many believers find themselves in a wasteland after experiencing Yeshua for the first time (spirit). In the desert, we have three choices for direction at this point:

- *Stand still*: Many believers do not journey through the wilderness, as they do not understand the experience the desert has on transforming the soul.
- *Turn back*: Some believers find themselves in the wilderness but do not press in. They miss the blessing and return to Egypt (*old ways and habits*).
- *Pass through*: Very few understand that the wilderness is the maturing process in the Messiah and where believers, who follow Him, are sanctified and delivered from their old nature *olam hazeh* within.

The wilderness is the process of redemption. Here old behaviors are circumcised from the heart, and sanctification or salvation of the soul materializes. Inspiration and purpose follow those who pursue the third choice. Characteristics of the carnal nature cannot be active in a believer when they enter the Holy Place. Their souls must be circumcised *and* sanctified (*holy*) before entering. The wilderness experience is that preparation process and the main ingredient for salvation of the soul for the perfecting of holiness. The desert prepares the Bride for her destiny *inside* the Tabernacle. *The way* has been provided for believers through the Covenant given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by Yeshua. Circumcision is on an individual basis, while one is alone with God/*Elohim*. It is not something other believers can take another believer through. Prayer line-ups, conferences, speakers, and other well-meaning circumstances like self-help programs and motivational books can assist, but they are only secondary. People can even become dependent on these tools and lose the fact that Yeshua alone is their Savior. These crutches will hinder the final step to the altar and prevent the receiving of precious anointing oil for their lamp that is needed to take them into the Holy Place - the place where their Redeemer resides. Only a face-to-face encounter with their Creator will move believers filled with the spirit from the outer court ministry of His Kingdom (that which is *outside* the Tabernacle) to the inner court ministry (that which is *inside* His House/The Tabernacle – the Place where He resides) (Exodus 19:5-6; Matthew 25; 1 Peter 2:9).

📖 **Galatians 5:19-26** “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you [*believers*] beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those [*believers*] who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God/*Elohim*. But the fruit of the Spirit [*God’s/Elohim characteristics*] is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those *who are* Christ’s/*Messiah’s* have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we [*believers*] live in the Spirit, let us [*believers*] also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

📖 **Mark 4:3-9** Yeshua said to believers, “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, *that* some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came

and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some *seed* fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other *seed* fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” And He said to them [*believers*], “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

📖 **2 Peter 1:1-11** Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, to those [*believers*] who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God/*Elohim* and Savior Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*: Grace and peace be multiplied to you [*believers*] in the knowledge of God/*Elohim* and of Jesus/*Yeshua* our Lord/*Adonai*, as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us [*believers*] by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us [*believers*] exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you [*believer*] may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith [*believer*] virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours [*believer*] and abound, *you* [*believer*] will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. For he [*believer*] who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he [*a believer*] was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren [*believer*], be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you [*believer*] do these things you [*believer*] will never stumble; for so an entrance [*into His Presence – Holy of Holies*] will be supplied to you [*believer*] abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord/*Adonai* and Savior Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*.”

The oil of anointing to fuel the lamp comes from a sanctified life, one of righteousness, which in turn produces holiness. Entering *Yeshua's* presence does not rest on our being perfect. But we need to be willing to keep and guard over His Word by observing His instructions. He sees such heartfelt willingness as perfection. This heart agreement is what allows believers to enter His presence fully.

📖 **Romans 13:10-14** “Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law/*Torah* [*the armor of Light*]. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you [*believer*] to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation [*the salvation of the soul*] is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us [*believer*] put aside the deeds of darkness [*the sinful nature*] and put on the armor of light [*Torah principles, fruit of the Spirit life in Yeshua*]. Let us [*believer*] behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature [*the flesh*].”

A Man

Who was this man wrestling with Jacob? We are taught in John 1:1 and in John 1:14 that the Word was God/*Elohim* and that the Word (God/*Elohim*) became flesh (*Yeshua*) and dwelt among us. This man whom Jacob wrestled with until dawn was God/*Elohim in the flesh, Yeshua Ha Mashiach, the Messiah*.

The man [*Yeshua*] said, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. Then the man [*Yeshua*] said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but *Israel*, because you have struggled with God/*Elohim [in the flesh – Yeshua]* and with men and have overcome” (Genesis 32: 25-29).

Yeshua wanted Jacob to understand *how* His Word/the principles work before blessing him. God/*Elohim* uses trials in our lives to elevate His purpose - that His Name is witnessed and glorified on earth in everything we do. However, many do not know His Word or understand how to apply His Gospel in their life, thus they are called *the unbelieving* in Scripture. If His people do not *believe* in His Gospel (the same Gospel that was given to Abraham and written out formally by Moses), then they also do not know their identity in Him. Consequently, they cannot uphold His Word or become a witness of Him on the earth (Galatians 3:8; John 5:46-47).

Our biblical culture today has forgotten that the names *Israel* and *Jacob* are synonymous. The two are one and the same in Scripture. Consequently, believers do not recognize that when Scripture talks about *Israel*, it is also talking about *Jacob, his family*, and the inheritance he received. Many have lost the understanding that *they are part of Israel – not the spiritual Israel* as some Christian denominations teach, but are part of *the physical Commonwealth of Israel*. When believers do not understand the basic principles of His Word or who they are, they have no basis or belief to substantiate being part of Israel. Thus they will not relate to Israel at all. Therefore, they will not uphold or support Jacob’s inheritance in a world that is crucifying Israel right now. Many believers do not know they are fully connected and included in the same Covenant and inheritance that was given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/*Israel because their root was amputated*. That is why, when current events happen in Israel, many churches remain silent, as they just do not relate or identify. *Yeshua, Torah (the Word), and Israel* are all interwoven by Covenant. As believers, it is time to return to be one with the land of Israel (Jacob), stand with the people of Israel (Jacob), and support Israel (Jacob), with our whole heart and soul, as Jacob’s inheritance is also our heritage (Galatians 3:7-8, 29).

🌿 **Deuteronomy 32:9** “For the LORD’s/*Yahweh’s* portion is His people; Jacob [*Israel*] is the allotment of His inheritance.”

🌿 **Psalms 47:4** “He chooses our inheritance for us, the glory of Jacob [*Israel*] whom He loves. Selah.”

🌿 **Jeremiah 51:19** “The portion of Jacob [*Israel*] is not like these; for the Maker of all is He, and of the tribe of His inheritance; the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts is His name.”

🌿 **Romans 11:25-27** “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel [*Jacob*] until the fullness of the Gentiles [*Nations*] has come in and thus all Israel

[*Jacob*] will be saved; just as it is written, ‘The Deliverer [*Yeshua*] will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob [*Israel*]. And this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’ ”

✚ **Psalm 89:18** “For our shield belongs to the LORD/*Yahweh*, and our king to the Holy One of Israel [*Jacob*].”

Jacob learned to trust and surrender everything to God/*Elohim* that day, and in response, he gained *the salvation of his soul*. When he came to the place of holiness and intimacy in the Messiah, *The Day of the Lord* had come upon Jacob/*Israel*. When we experience a face-to-face encounter with the living God/*Elohim* like Jacob, we too will be changed *forever*. Jacob *walked* differently from that moment on - and so will we.

✚ **Malachi 4:2-3** “But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do *this*,” says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts.”

✚ **Genesis 32:30** “So Jacob called the place Peniel [meaning *Face of El*], saying, ‘It is because I saw God/*Elohim* face to face, and yet my life was spared.’”

Jacob Meets Esau Genesis 33

At daybreak, Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming towards him with four hundred men. He took his children and divided them into two groups among their mothers. Jacob then went on ahead. As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times. When Esau saw Jacob, he ran and embraced him. He threw his arms around his neck and kissed him - and they wept.

We notice differing characteristics between the two brothers. Jacob was humble in his approach, as a shepherd, presenting a peaceful, pastoral family setting, whereas Esau approached in a warrior-like style. We never see Esau with flocks, while Jacob is surrounded by flocks and always concerned for their welfare. Esau had no fruit of the Spirit, where Jacob had a hundredfold fruit. We get the sense with Esau that he was not interested in a walk with God/*Elohim*, as he had become his own god with his own kingdom and support system. In contrast, Jacob was genuine, pure of heart, and stood before his brother as a servant entirely reliant on God/*Elohim* for His guidance, protection, and covering in life.

Since first arriving in Padan Aram, not once do we see Jacob break his focus. He always cared for the sheep. Now upon his return, when faced with adversity, we again see Jacob’s integrity through the care over his family and in not wanting to drive them or the flocks too hard for fear of weakening them. Jacob was unwavering because he built his trust in the Eternal One (*olam haba*), the *Rock of Israel* - *Yeshua*. On the other hand, we see Esau created for himself a life in the present world (*olam hazeh*) by trusting in his own ability to produce what eventually amassed him a mighty army of warriors. Jacob’s love was his strength. He would even lay his life down for the least of them. Jacob’s life was prophetic of the future *Whole House of Israel* (Jacob), who would one day be found outside among the Nations with only a remnant returning, led by the

true Shepherd of Israel, *Yeshua*, restored to the Promised Land at His appointed time and in His season.

Noticing the difference between them, Esau inquired after the flocks, children, and women with Jacob. As Jacob introduced his family, his wives and children came forward and bowed before Esau. Last to arrive was Rachel with Joseph. Benjamin was not yet born; thus was the only son who did not bow down to Esau.

After the reunion, God/*Elohim* presented one last test for Jacob in that he still needed to amend his deceptive ways with Esau. When Esau inquired after the flocks that Jacob sent before his arrival, Jacob replied they were to find *Esau's favor*. Jacob had sent these gifts *before* his heart-deliverance with Yeshua. It is interesting to note that Jacob's unresolved past was the one area in which the enemy could still tempt him. We can see this in the presentation of the gifts, as they seemed to encourage Esau to invite Jacob to join him. Now, after his deliverance, Jacob avoided committing to Esau's invitation saying his family would make their way but at a much slower pace according to the herds and children with him "*until I come to my lord in Seir.*" When we read Obadiah's account of Edom, we see Jacob used prophetic language with Esau that would unfold at a future date. After his encounter with Esau, Jacob took the opposite route to continue his return journey to his father (Genesis 33:14; Obadiah Chapter 1).

There may be temptations and tests along the way, but Yeshua protects His sheep by His Covenantal promises, not leaving one flock behind until all are safely gathered (Genesis 28:2; Matthew 18:11-14).

- ✚ **Micah 2:12** "I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people."
- ✚ **Matthew 15:24** "But He [*Yeshua*] answered and said, 'I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel [*Jacob*].'"
- ✚ **John 10:14-16** "I [*Yeshua*] am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd."
- ✚ **Romans 11:25-27** "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you [*believer*] should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel [*Jacob - the twelve tribes of Israel*] until the fullness of the Gentiles [*those scattered throughout the Nations/wilderness due to their not observing His Word*] has come in. And so all Israel [*the House of Judah and the House of Ephraim/Israel*] will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from *Jacob*; for this is My covenant with them [*the Whole House of Israel/Jacob*] when I take away their [*Israel's*] sins.'" (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10).

Eventually, Jacob will come to Seir. The prophet Obadiah pronounced God's/*Elohim* judgment against Edom, the descendants of Esau. The ultimate destruction would come from the House of Jacob, repaying the years of destruction exacted by the Edomites ruling the world.

🏰 **Obadiah 1:18-21** “The House of Jacob will be a fire and the House of Joseph a flame; the House of Esau will be stubble, and they will set it on fire and consume it. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau. The LORD/*Yahweh* has spoken. People from the Negev will occupy the mountains of Esau, and people from the foothills will possess the land of the Philistines. They will occupy the fields of Ephraim and Samaria, and Benjamin will possess Gilead. This company of Israelite exiles who are in Canaan will possess the land as far as Zarephath; the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev. Deliverers will go up from Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the LORD's/*Yahweh*.”

Jacob Enters The Land

Jacob journeyed to *Sukkot*. There he made shelters or booths for his family and livestock. Here we see Jacob honoring God's/*Elohim* Feast Days. *Shelters*, *Sukkot*, or *booths* are all references to the Feast of Tabernacles. Jacob's return had followed the days of repentance called the *ten days of awe* from the Feast of Trumpets/*Yom Teruah* to the Day of Atonement/*Yom Kippur*. Five days after *Yom Kippur* is the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, also called the *Feast of Ingathering*, *the Feast of Dedication*, or *the Wedding Banquet*. Jacob's life unfolded the truth behind God's/*Elohim* appointed Feasts for our lives.

The three phases to a Hebrew wedding are:

- The Betrothal (Feast of Pentecost/*Shavuot*),
- The Wedding Day (the Day of Atonement/*Yom Kippur*)
- The Wedding Reception – the Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot*).

God's/*Elohim moedim*/Seasons and Feast Days are directions for Yeshua's Bride – led by the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* – to her waiting Bridegroom and her wedding.

Jacob's entire story is a foreshadowing of our lives. Learning to walk in God's/*Elohim* ways teaches us how to live according to His Word and prepares Yeshua's people as a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Our desire and goal is to become a people who, like Jacob, learn to uphold God's/*Elohim* appointed seasons and to reap the blessings that are held within (Exodus 19:5-6; 2 Peter 2:9).

Jacob arrived safely at the city of Shechem and camped within sight of it - the same place where Abraham and Isaac had rested. Jacob purchased this place to pitch his tent and set an altar to God/*Elohim*, naming it *El Elohe Israel*, “*The mighty God/Elohim of Israel*” (Genesis 33:18- 20).

Dinah Is Tempted And Leaves Her Covering Genesis 34

Camping within sight of the city drew Leah's daughter Dinah to become curious. She left her covering and went to inquire after the women of the land. That may seem innocent, but Dinah violated the safety found within the Torah lifestyle (living in agreement to God's/*Elohim* instruction for her life) to mingle among worldly ways. When she longed for what the world had, the desires within her (the areas not yet circumcised in her life) gave license for the enemy to tempt her, and with that, she allowed herself to be led astray. Dinah had not governed her heart. That inconsistency brought transgressions and iniquity with far-reaching future repercussions. In crossing over to the camp of the unredeemed, Dinah drew attention to herself, and an uncircumcised man approached Dinah's uncircumcised heart. Outside of her father's protection and covering, she exposed herself to harm and began to follow a path that led to spiritual and physical decay and death.

Upon hearing of the violation that came upon Dinah, did her father Jacob come to her aid? Did Jacob speak out against this outrageous act of violence? Scripture records he waited for the return of his sons. The father's role is so essential for any young woman growing up. Without his active presence, they will be exposed, vulnerable, and open to seeking attention and love in wrong places. Any child living in the home, whether a natural born, fostered, or adopted, are to be covered by the father of that home. Proper parenting is likened to the protective cloud covering (*chuppah/wedding canopy*) over the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

Yeshua is our heavenly covering. Fathers are to be imitators of Him in their homes. Their behavior as a parent directly affects the view children have of their Heavenly Father and how they perceive Him. For some men, a father's position may not be natural for them. Their father must impart it to them. If a father is not present in the home, the godly men in the community act as their role model. We have lost many youths in our society today because of broken homes. Many young men and fathers have never been taught how to walk as the provider, protector, and leader, nor have they understood why it is so important to walk in the principles found in a Torah lifestyle. That is why the community of believers participates in encouraging fathers to love and cover their families, to safeguard the community, preventing mistakes and temptations for our future generations - as the youth are *the salvation of our soul*.

The violation of Dinah led to a series of schemes that resulted in Jacob's sons Simeon and Levi murdering and plundering a whole community. Because of the way they meted out vengeance regarding their sister's mishap, they were severely reprimanded and bypassed receiving the firstborn inheritance (as was Ruben, which we will witness shortly). That was how Judah, the fourth son of Leah, was repositioned as Leah's firstborn son. We must be very careful what we sow in our hearts, as one day we will reap its fruit.

Jacob Returns To Bethel Genesis 35

In Shechem, God/*Elohim* said to Jacob, "*Go up to Bethel (Beit El – House of God/Elohim) and settle there, and build an altar to God/Elohim.*" How did Jacob prepare his household? He commanded they do away with all the foreign gods in their possession. How did Jacob know of

the gods? Rachel stole her father's idols before they left Laban. The people gave Jacob all their false images and earrings. However, he did not destroy but buried them under the oak at Shechem. He then instructed the people to purify themselves (ritual water cleansing called the *mikvah* for a change of status—from the unclean realm to the clean realm) and change their clothes. Once complete, they set out, and the “*terror of God/Elohim fell upon the towns all around them so that no one pursued them*” (Genesis 35:5).

We see a valuable lesson here. To hold idols dear to our heart will bring contamination not only upon us personally but also upon the whole community. The story of Jacob is about *the salvation of the soul*. There may be idols within and even hidden among the possessions that we have yet to relinquish. They will prevent our moving forward. Seeking help in prayer lineups or conferences won't help if we have idols in our heart. Old mementos and souvenirs carry unclean antiquities of other cultures or gods. These are idols. Undertaking a complete house cleanse like Jacob's family will bring much purification and healing. Seeking repentance to circumcise the heart will bring many blessings to our life and the lives of others (James 1:14-15; 4:1-10).

The *mixture* Jacob had allowed to remain in his heart and soul *after* his initial commitment to God/*Elohim*, some twenty years earlier, was dishonoring. Considering the years of living in the uncleanliness of exile, God/*Elohim* had him return to re-dedicate himself. Once renewed in heart and soul, Jacob rebuilt the altar (called *Beit El*, “*The House of God/Elohim*”) and there, God/*Elohim* appeared to him once again saying,

🦁 **Genesis 35:10-12** “Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be *Israel*.” So he named him Israel. And God/*Elohim* said to him, “*I am El-Shaddai. Be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you.*”

As with Jacob, every time a believer steps outside God's/*Elohim* Covenantal ways, they need to renew their vow and cleanse/sanctify themselves anew. This action is not for salvation purposes but enables His people to return to that holy honoring state once again. To return to *the place* (attitude, words, or actions) where they last dishonored God/*Elohim* and renew their promise to Him will allow them to move forward. If Jacob had not obeyed God/*Elohim* in this renewal, he would not have been able to proceed into the Land, and it would have cost him his inheritance. God/*Elohim* is to be honored, as He is *Holy*.

🦁 **Revelation 2:4-5** “Nevertheless I have this against you [*believer*], that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; *repent and do the first works*, or else I will come to you quickly and *remove your lampstand from its place* - unless you repent.”

The Covenant God/*Elohim* established with Abraham and Isaac was now passed on to the next generation. In response, Jacob set a stone pillar in place and poured out the drink offering and oil upon it. These offerings were always given with the grain offering (called in Hebrew *minchah*). Stone is a reference to the Messiah. Yeshua is the bread offering, therefore, *the Bread of Life*. That was why Jacob poured the drink offering and oil upon the Rock, *Yeshua, The Bread of Life*.

With this final act of obedience, Jacob was completely restored and given full Kingdom privileges (heavenly authority on the earth) that could now be passed on to his legal heirs in the Covenant and inheritance of Israel.

✠ **1 Corinthians 10:1-4** “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ/*Messiah*.”

The Deaths Of Rachel And Isaac

Genesis 35

As Jacob’s family made their way from Bethel to Bethlehem, Rachel went into labor. She died shortly after giving birth to Benjamin. The truth was Rachel’s early death was set in motion when she lied about her father’s idols and Jacob innocently pronouncing a death sentence over her while saying to Laban, “*If you find anyone, who has your gods, he shall not live.*” The completion of her cycle ended with the birth of her son Benjamin, the only son of Jacob, born in the Promised Land. Sadly, this story is about taking every thought captive and being very careful with the words we speak, as we can see life and death are in the power of the tongue - that which we speak (Genesis 31:32-35; James 3:5-10).

As Jacob continued to journey in the land, Reuben, Leah’s firstborn son, defiled his father’s bed by sleeping with Rachel’s maidservant Bilhah. His violation set the stage for Rachel’s son Joseph to become firstborn among his brothers. Twenty years after leaving his father, Jacob returned to Hebron to see his father Isaac before his death. Isaac lived to one hundred and eighty years before his passing. Together, his sons Jacob and Esau buried him.

✠ **Colossians 3:1-17** “Since, then, you [*believer*] have been raised with Christ/*Messiah*, set your hearts on things above [*olam haba*], where Christ/*Messiah* is seated at the right hand of God/*Elohim*. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things [*olam hazeh*]. For you [*believer*] died [*at the altar*], and your life is now hidden with Christ/*Messiah* in God/*Elohim*. When Christ/*Messiah*, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore, [*believer*] put to death, your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion [*lust*], evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry [*Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil – olam hazeh*]. Because of these things the wrath of God/*Elohim* is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves [*believers*] once walked when you [*believer*] lived in them. But now you yourselves [*believer*] are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you [*believer*] have put off the old man [*Satan*] with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, [*Yeshua, The Tree of Life*], where there is no Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ/*Messiah* is all and in all.”

“Therefore [*believer*], as the elect of God/*Elohim*, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; [*the Fruit of Repentance*] bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ/*Messiah* forgive you, so you [*believer*] also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God/*Elohim* rule in your hearts, to which also you [*believer*] were called in one body; and be thankful.”

“Let the word of Christ/*Messiah* dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord/*Adonai*. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach*, giving thanks to God/*Elohim* the Father through Him.”

🌿 **Philippians 2:12-16** “Therefore, my beloved, as you [*believer*] have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation [*of the soul*] with fear and trembling; for it is God/*Elohim* who works in you [*believer*] both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you [*believer*] may become blameless and harmless, children of God/*Elohim* without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ/*Messiah* that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”

🌿 **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** “Therefore, if anyone [*believer*] is in Christ/*Messiah*, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things *are* of God/*Elohim*, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, and has given us [*believers*] the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God/*Elohim* was in Christ/*Messiah* reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us [*believers*] the word of reconciliation. Now then, we [*believer*] are ambassadors [*priests*] for Christ/*Messiah*, as though God/*Elohim* were pleading through us [*believer*]: we implore *you* on Christ’s/*Messiah*’s behalf, [*believer*] be reconciled to God/*Elohim*.”

🌿 **Amos 9:11-12** “In that day I will restore David’s fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom [*Esau*] and all the nations that bear my name.”

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

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