

## **Encounters with the Living God, Part 2: Genesis 32 – Jacob wrestling with God in the night**

Artists and writers through history has been fascinated by the lonely Jacob attacked by a stranger. Why is he attacked and by whom? Can a human being struggle with God and overcome? Jacob's past and his future came together in the long hours of the night – and when the sun rose he was a changed man.

### **I. Night in the life of Jacob**

#### **A. Jacob's background**

1. Born into a blessed family
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Born with a personal blessing

#### **B. Jacob's choice**

1. Cheated his brother Esau out of the rights of the firstborn
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Lied to his father Isaac to receive the blessing
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Tricked his uncle Laban out of his cattle

**II. Jacob – on the run from God?**

A. God's wonderful promises, Gen 28:13-15

B. Jacob's reservation: "if ... so that ... then"

**III. Three mirrors for Jacob**

A. Jacob cheated his father – Laban cheated Jacob

B. The younger cheated the older of the birth right – the older cheated the younger of marriage right

C. Division between him and his brother – division between his two wives

**IV. Jacob haunted from all sides**

A. Laban coming after him, Esau confronting him ... and an unknown man attacking him. His whole life is coming together in one moment

- B. Jacob has changed, from Betel chapter 28 to Mahanaim chapter 32: “I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant ... Save me, I pray”

## **V. Jacob Wrestles in the Night**

- A. The words God has been waiting for

- B. Change of roles: “Let me go”

## **VI. The Sun Raises over Jacob**

- A. The question of Jacob’s identity: “What is your name?”

- B. The question of God’s identity: “Why do you ask my name?”

- C. And he blessed him there.