

November 28, 2017

## Holding Fast to Him

Dear Family,

*Genesis 32:24-28 (KJV) <sup>24</sup> And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup> And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> And he said, "Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." <sup>27</sup> And he said unto him, "What is thy name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> And he said, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."*

One day God's covenant people will make aliyah to eretz Israel. The Hebrew word, aliyah, means "to ascend" or move "up" to the land of Israel. The Torah portion for this week is called **Vayishlach** in the Hebrew Scriptures, is translated, "**And he sent,**" and begins with Jacob sending messengers to meet Esau with gifts to appease him as he was returning to the land God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. It is found in **Genesis 32:4 - 36:43**, and relates the events surrounding his "moving up" to the land of promise. You will recall that Jacob had left the land twenty years earlier with only his staff in his hand. After a time of chastening and many hardships, he returned, as God had shown him, with much wealth, a large family, and many servants. He had been severely tested and grown much. He had seen YHWH reveal His strength on his behalf, and has experienced the fulfillment of God's promise to bring him back to the land that He had given to Abraham, Isaac and also to Jacob. One might surmise that, with things going so well, Jacob would be full of trust, but, as many of us do, even though he had seen God's faithfulness, he prayed to God for deliverance, while at the same time, he allowed himself to be overcome by fear. Pay attention to the actions that Jacob took. Notice how he devises a plan to appease Esau, **being motivated by fear, not love**. Remember, **faith and fear are direct opposites**. Fear cannot dwell in the same place with trust, neither will trust work while you're in fear. We may at times be attacked with fear, but we must not let fear take hold of us. Quickly cast it down. **Faith works by love** (Galatians 5:6), and **perfect love casts out fear** (1 John 4:18).

To deal with the fear that had taken hold of Jacob, I believe that Yeshua appeared to him in a pre-incarnate appearance, as a man, and we read that they wrestled until daybreak. I believe that this "wrestling" was not a match between God and Jacob. If we see what happened to Jacob after this supernatural event, we can see that he had been freed from the natural inclination of doing things according to fleshly devices according to fear, and he began a new chapter of spiritual revelation according to faith. I can see Yeshua taking hold with Jacob against the overwhelming fear that could, if not dealt with, keep Jacob from answering His call completely. Certainly, we can readily see that Jacob was no match against the power of God, for with a touch, Jacob's thigh went out of joint. God had come to Jacob to deliver him from all his fears and to bless him with a new name, **Israel**, which **denotes his princely position** in the Kingdom of God.

Each of us, like Jacob, have experienced many attacks from the enemy upon our lives. We may

have succumbed to a dread of some unnamed future event. Let's determine, as Jacob did, that of ourselves, we are not able to overcome the enemy, or his attacks, but when we let God take hold together with us against all the power of the enemy, then no weapon that is formed against us can prosper (Isaiah 54:17). **True, God wrestled with Jacob, but not against him, and He will wrestle with you against the debilitating lie that is fear.** He will show you that He is for you, never against you. He has given us **His Name, His blood and His uncompromising Word**, and the enemy must bow before Him. As we abide in Him, nothing can stand against us, for we, as princes in the Kingdom of God, rule and reign with Him.

*Luke 10:17-19 (TLV) <sup>17</sup> Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Master, even the demons submit to us in Your Name!" <sup>18</sup> And Yeshua said to them, "I was watching satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."*

*Revelation 12:11 (TLV) <sup>11</sup> They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even in the face of death.*

He will never let go of us,  
Terry