

Yoked With the Lord

Shalom,

The Torah portion for this week is found in **Genesis 32:4–36:43**. It is called **Vayishlach** in the Hebrew Scriptures, and is translated, “**And he sent.**” This is the account of Jacob returning to the land of his inheritance after having been in Paddanaram for twenty years, separated from his mother and father and the land of blessing that had been promised to him after God spoke to him that it was time for him to go back up to take his promised inheritance. **Jacob had learned a great deal in those years, but he still had to learn what every believer needs to learn, and that is that obedience to our natural inclinations will only open us up to fear and unbelief.**

After Ya'akov arrived from Paddan-Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. God said to him, “Your name is Ya'akov, but you will be called Ya'akov no longer; your name will be Isra'el.” Thus He named him Isra'el. God further said to him, “I am El Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed a group of nations, will come from you; kings will be descended from you. (A: vi) Moreover, the land which I gave to Avraham and Yitz'chak I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you.” (Genesis 35:9-12 CJB)

For in Him all the promises of God are “Yes.” Therefore also through Him is the “Amen” by us, to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 1:20 TLV)

Even though God’s promises are certain and cannot fail when we choose to trust them, yielding to fear or fleshly understanding will thwart the will and plan of God in our individual lives. Fear is the primary tool that the enemy uses against us to cripple our faith, because when we choose to fear, we choose not to trust. Think how many times **Yeshua commanded us to, “Fear not!” He was always encouraging people to trust, because when we choose to trust, we defeat the power of fear.**

When Jacob came back to the land of Israel, He was overcome with fear, and it was not just because of natural things that had occurred, nor just because he had wronged his brother. The devil attacks the call of God on our lives with roaring and lying accusations that are designed by the evil one to cause us to focus on totally hopeless and terrifying possibilities. Jacob was moved with fear and, though he made his own plans to protect his family, he was left with a sense of desolation. **Amid his darkness, God’s presence, in a completely unexpected way revealed Jacob’s own ineffectiveness, but also**

worked in a supernatural manifestation to show His willingness to strengthen and sustain according to His promises and grace.

*So Jacob remained all by himself. Then **a man wrestled with him** until the break of dawn. When He saw that He had not overcome him, He struck the socket of his hip, so **He dislocated the socket of Jacob's hip** when He wrestled with him. (Genesis 32:25-26 TLV)*

Jacob had to learn that taking actions motivated by fleshly reasoning and driven by fear cannot prosper, and he had to see that God's strength is not limited to the ability of man. I believe it was Jesus, in a preincarnate appearance, who wrestled **along with** Jacob, taking hold with him **against the fear** that gripped him as he depended on his natural ability. Jacob's dislocated hip socket shows the weakness and inability of his flesh, or natural strength and reasoning.

Do not miss the significance of this incident in the life of Jacob. It applies to each of us in our own lives and circumstances, for we are, or will be, confronted with problems and dangers that we can never rely on our own reasoning or fleshly power to overcome.

*God said to him, "**Your name is Ya'akov, but you will be called Ya'akov no longer; your name will be Isra'el.**" Thus He named him **Isra'el**. God further said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed a group of nations, will come from you; kings will be descended from you. (A: vi) Moreover, the land which I gave to Avraham and Yitz'chak I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you." (Genesis 35:10-12 CJB)*

Jacob was so **changed by this encounter** with the Spirit of God that God **changed his name** from **Ya'akov** to **Israel**, denoting that **God related to him as a Prince. All who are born of the Spirit are recognized as sons of God**

*In the same way, the Ruach **helps** in our weakness. For we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Ruach Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words. (Romans 8:26 TLV)*

The word for "**helps**" in the preceding verse is a Greek compound word, **synantilambanomai**; **which means to take hold of opposite together, i.e., co-operate (assist): — help.** I like to rephrase it like this: "**to take hold together with against**", for that is exactly how the Lord works in us if we surrender to Him and allow Him to work through us in our spirits

The devil maneuvers to expose our weaknesses. He will defeat us and leave us without hope or purpose, if we rely on the flesh and allow fear, which is the opposite of faith, to have dominion over us; but **God will always give us victory over Satan if we let Him work with us, choose to trust, and cast down fear. In the power of the spirit, we will triumph over all the power of darkness and gain the victory over all the works of the flesh.**

The new creation reality is that when believers receive the immersion in the power of God, as we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we not only are equipped to conquer the wiles of the devil, but, **as sons of God, we gain victory over the flesh nature and its debilitating weaknesses so that our lives become complete in the anointing of Jesus to bring about His plan to subdue the earth with His yoke destroying, burden lifting love.**

With His help,
Terry

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