

Genesis 32:24-32
The Angel of Jehovah (8)

Introduction

- I. At Bethel, 20 years earlier, Jacob is alone with God, sees himself, and receives the promise that God will go with him, and fulfill all His word.
- II. Now, as he returns to the promised land he is forced again to see himself, when finally he does, he receives the same reassuring blessing from God.

“Wrestling with Jacob”

- I. The details of the wrestling match
 - A. Where and when?
 1. On the border of the promised land when it seems that Jacob is on the verge of seeing all God’s promises to him fulfilled.
 2. Then he receives the frightening news, Esau is coming, and Jacob is afraid.
 - a. In his fear, he comes up with strategies to appease his brother.
 - b. Then, left alone, he cannot sleep.
 - B. Who?
 1. Jacob -- the heel-holder and supplanter (Genesis 25:26).
 2. This Man that comes out of the darkness who is the Angel of Jehovah, Christ preincarnate
 - a. He is called God (vv. 28, 30)
 - b. Hosea confirms his identity (Hosea 12:3-5)
 - c. His Divine abilities prove who he is.
 - C. This wrestling match is real.
- II. The purpose of the Angel’s coming to wrestle with Jacob
 - A. First, we must see that the Angel is the aggressor, that he comes to Jacob and controls the entire fight, and finishes it with a blow to Jacob’s hip, by a touch of his finger.
 - B. The purpose is that Jacob may see his weakness as he fights in his own strength.
 1. The Angel asks, What is thy name? And Jacob is forced to recognize his own character and weakness.
 2. And then he clings to the Angel, to Christ and the promises of blessing in Him.
 3. Prayer that has power with God, is prayer in which we are humbled and cling only to the cross and righteousness of Christ.
- III. The blessing that the Angel gives to Jacob
 - A. The blessing
 1. He does not tell Jacob His name (Judges 13:17-18)
 2. But gives him the patriarchal/messianic blessing, which means Christ and salvation for Jacob.
 - B. The injury -- which is also a blessing
 1. He is suddenly an old man, who halts upon his thigh.
 2. But, like Paul, this thorn in the flesh reminds him forever after not to trust self, but to find strength in personal weakness and from grace.