

**Jacob
Meets Esau**
Genesis 33:1-20

Jacob Meets Esau

Begin with prayer

Read: Genesis 33:1-20

Listen: THRU the BIBLE: [Genesis 33:1-20](#)

Dear God,

Thank You that Your transforming work in us produces real change. Help us to move from taking to giving, from scheming to trusting. Where relationships need reconciliation, soften our hearts and theirs and let Your grace write a new chapter.

Amen.



Brothers Meet Again



Genesis 33:1-20

In the morning, Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with 400 men. He didn't know if Esau was coming as friend or foe.

But when they got closer, **Esau ran to meet him, embraced him and kissed him and they cried.** Well, they are twin brothers after all. **God must have touched Esau's heart,** because the last we saw of him, he had sworn vengeance that he would kill Jacob.

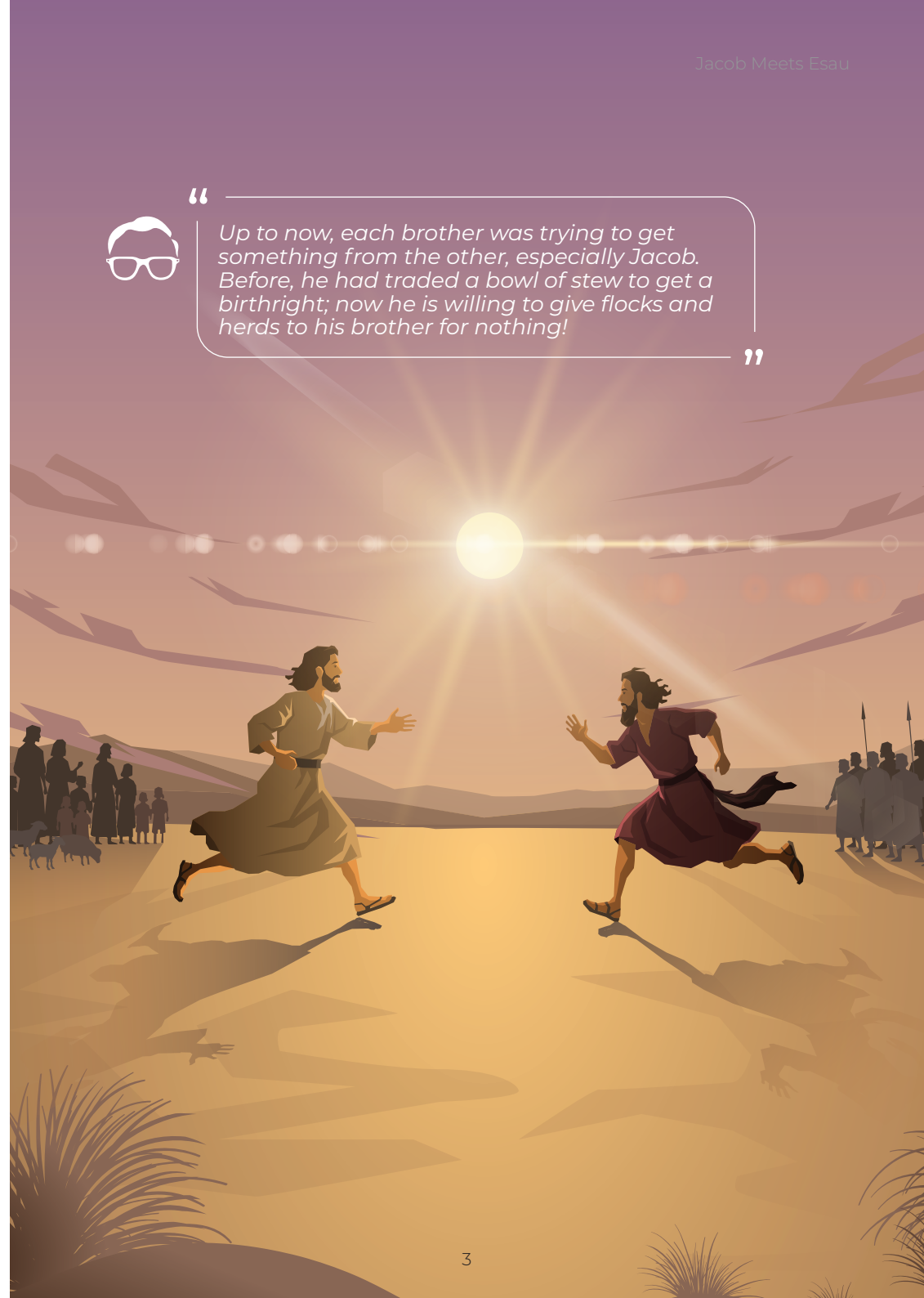
Then Jacob introduced his family to his brother. Esau then asked about all the flocks and herds that Jacob had sent ahead of him. **"They are for you, Esau!"** Esau might have laughed when he replied, **"I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."**

"And Jacob said, **'No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me. Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.'** So he urged him, and he took it."
(Genesis 33:10-11)



Up to now, each brother was trying to get something from the other, especially Jacob. Before, he had traded a bowl of stew to get a birthright; now he is willing to give flocks and herds to his brother for nothing!

”



Jacob's Transformation

What a switch! **Up to now, each brother was trying to get something from the other, especially Jacob. Before, he had traded a bowl of stew to get a birthright; now he was willing to give flocks and herds to his brother for nothing in return!** He insisted that his brother take his gift. **Something radical has happened to Jacob.**

Esau then invited Jacob to travel with them, to show them the way and protect them. But Jacob was mindful of his young family and the young in their flocks and herds. They couldn't travel fast. **"We can't keep up with your army, Brother Esau. You go ahead."** So Esau left some servants to help Jacob's family and went ahead to southern Canaan in Seir, the **land of Edom**. After their father's death, he moved to Mount Seir, which **God gave to Esau for a possession.** (see *Deuteronomy 2:5*)

A New Life for Jacob

A great change had come over Jacob. All his clever scheming amounted to nothing. God had warned Laban not to harm Jacob, and God prepared Esau to reconcile with his brother. Now Jacob had peace on both fronts. God had arranged all of this for him. If Jacob had relied on his own cleverness, he may have come to a violent death.

Later, as Jacob looked back over his life, he would see the hand of God and would give God the glory. But for now, Jacob was learning how to walk in faith.

In his new home, Jacob built an altar, just like his grandfather Abraham had done wherever he went. **He called the new place El Elohe Israel, which means "God, the God of Israel."** Jacob identifies his new name with God's name. This indicated real growth in a man who was just learning to walk in faith. But it was a slow growth.

He would need to grow more as the next chapter in his family's life would bring tragedy.



"Jacob is learning how to walk with his spiritual legs."

"



God's Eternal Truths

Relevant to us from *Genesis 33*

God's transforming work produces genuine change - from taking to giving.

- **The Truth:** Jacob was defined by taking: he took the birthright, took the blessing, took every advantage he could. But after his encounter with God at Peniel, something radical happened. He now insisted on giving generously to the very brother he once cheated. God had arranged peace on both fronts - with Laban behind him and Esau before him. If Jacob had been left to his own cleverness, he may have come to a violent death.



- **New Testament Connection:** *2 Corinthians 5:17* "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." *Ephesians 4:23-24* "be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."



Reflection Questions

Question 1

Evidence of Transformation: Jacob went from taking to giving. What concrete evidence of God's transforming work can you point to in your own life? Are there areas where your character has genuinely changed, or areas where the "old Jacob" still operates?

Question 2

Trusting God's Arrangements: God softened Esau's heart and arranged reconciliation that Jacob's schemes could never have achieved. Is there a broken relationship in your life where you are trying to reconcile in your own strength rather than trusting God to work in the other person's heart?

Question 3

Jacob built an altar and named it "God, the God of Israel" which publicly linked his new identity to God. What is one practical step you can take this week to publicly acknowledge what God has done in your life, even if your growth feels slow?



Access Our Resources



Download THRU the BIBLE app and listen to audio bible teachings available in over 200 languages.

Visit ttb.bible



Discover our interactive digital flip book of more volumes in the Scripture Engagement book series on our website.

Visit ttbsa.org