

Genesis 32 • Struggling with Man and God

1. (v.1-2) We are not only accompanied by **earthly** resources, but **heavenly** as well.
2. (v.3-8) We may doubt those resources in the face of **unresolved** personal **sin**.
3. (v.9-12) In times of crisis our prayer should be for God's **will** and **grace**, not the accompanying **resources**.
4. (v.13-23) In such times our true spiritual condition is betrayed by the degree to which we wish to separate the **innocent** from the **guilty** in order to minimize the **consequences**.
5. (v.24-32) We may think the goal is to come face to face with the source of our **earthly** struggle, but we will first have to come face to face with **God** the source of our **spiritual** struggle.

Consider the following points regarding Jacob's life and make application to your own:

- Jacob stole an **earthly** birthright and blessing that turned out to be of little or no practical **benefit**. God took him through the process of providing a **spiritual** birthright and blessing of greater and more personal value.
- Although his inheritance through Abraham and Isaac would have been very great, God separated Jacob so as to build for him his own legacy and possession, both **earthly** and **heavenly**.
- Jacob's struggle with **man** was really his struggle with **God**.
- The transfer of the birthright and blessing was thought to be the end of the future for **Esau**, but it turned out that during the time God was working on **Jacob**, so He was working on and blessing **Esau**. Neither needed what their **earthly** father offered but that of their **heavenly** Father.