

"Jacob Meets Esau"
Genesis 32:1-23; 33:1-17

"Out of the frying pan & into the kettle." "When it rains, it pours."

- Jacob has just left the conflict with Laban to now meet Esau.
- **Does life ever get that way for you?**

"All Your waves & Your breakers have rolled over me..." - Ps. 42:7

Vs. 1 - The expression "the Angles of God" used only here & in 28:12. (God confirming His promise to Jacob thru reassurance.)

1. God will send you reassurance & encouragement.

- A. But, you have to keep your spiritual eyes open for them. **(2 Cor. 4:16-18)**

"I, even I, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid...?" - Isaiah 51:12

2. God's invisible realm is always touching your visible one.

- A. Do you think angels were only involved in Jacob's life and struggles?

"He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." - Ps. 91

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to help those who are inheriting salvation?" - Heb. 1

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." - Heb. 13:2

Vs. 1 - "Two Camps": God's & Jacob's.

- B. Begin to live your life in Mahanaim.

"I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me." - Ps. 16:8

"For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." - Is. 41:13

- I. God encamps around His people:

"The Angel of Yahweh encamps around those you fear Him and rescues them." - Ps. 34:7

3. Even though God encamps around you, crying out to Him is still part of the process. (9-12)

- A. Jacob is finally beginning to approach The Lord in humility and dependence. (To learn to cry out to God and to see Him work requires struggles in my life.)

"The LORD is near to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." - Ps. 34:18

"I sought Yahweh and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears." - Ps. 34.4

- B. Even Jesus, our Lord, knows what's it's like to be under great pressure. (The Garden of Gethsemane).

- I. See **Hebrews 4:14-16**

4. Most of our fears never come to pass. (33:1-17)

"My enemies surrounded me like bees, they were extinguished as a fire of thorns." - Ps. 40

Close:

- When God's work is involved, the conflict is spiritual, not physical. This was true for Jacob, for all the godly people in Scripture and history, and it is true for you today. No human effort can be sufficient for these things. The source of defense and the means of victory come from God and His Heavenly Hosts. Struggles, more than happiness, bring us closer to the Kingdom of God.

- God is continually chiseling away at our self-life often times using troubles to bring about Christ-like character in us. (**Romans 8:28-39**)