



*Timeless lives from the God-Story*  
**JACOB: WRESTLING WITH GOD**

**Genesis 26-35**

Everything we find in the scriptures about God indicate that He is intensely interested in what is happening with the souls of men. He is not aloof, He is not passive, He is not reactive. He is seeking out men and women who want to honor Him because He wants to honor them. He has designed life in such a manner that those who look for Him can find Him, just as Jacob wrestled with God we wrestle with God - and find our identity in His grace - or not.

*Genesis 26*

In what ways is Jacob like his father? His grandfather? What is happening to the nation of Israel as time is passing? What part do you suppose that wells of water played in this culture?

*Genesis 27-28*

Why were Jacob and Esau in conflict (see the end of chapter 25)? What is the big deal about stealing a pot of soup? What was the “blessing” and why did Esau regard it so lightly? Who appears superior in character, Jacob or Esau? Why was Jacob’s “ladder” dream so significant to his life of faith?

*Genesis 29-31*

What are your observations on Jacob’s family life? Jacob appears to be a deceptive person and ends up being deceived himself. What had Jacob learned while in the house of Laban? What kind of progress do you think Jacob is making in his life of faith?

*Genesis 32-35*

Jacob’s life was turbulent on many levels. Why was he afraid of his brother Esau? The account of Jacob wrestling with an angel is a curious one. Why do you think this happened? Why do you think it happened when it did? Why wouldn’t Jacob’s family intermarry with the family of Shechem? What does their response tell you about what God is doing in His chosen people? What is the significance of changing Jacob’s name to Israel? Why was this done with Jacob rather than his father Isaac or his grandfather Abraham?

*Read Hebrews 11*

*What is the significance of the blessing being passed on in verses 20 and 21? Jacob wrestled with God and the world and prevailed. He was blessed with knowledge of God and meaning in life! How rich is your standard for evaluation of the ultimate meaning of your life?*

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