

Genesis 32:1-32

Hebrews 12:1-8

1. God is reminding Jacob of HIS PROMISES

Genesis 28:10-22

Genesis 25:27-34

Genesis 28 and Genesis 11 are two passages reflecting differing schools of thought over the issue of salvation. In Genesis 11, people try to reach heaven based upon their own actions aside from God's help. In Genesis 28, people have access to heaven based on the provisions of God and only the provisions of God.

2. God is reminding Jacob of HIS UNIVERSAL LAWS

Genesis 29:15-27

Galatians 6:7

Hebrews 12:7-8

"Well, my brother legally sold me his birthright, and with it comes the blessing. I know that my father is probably not willing to give me the blessing and to honor the deal I made with my brother. He will eventually give the blessing to my brother Esau anyway. So, as my mother suggested, I will have to deceive my father in order to get what is right. BECAUSE, OUR CUSTOM IS FOR THE BIRTHRIGHT TO GO WITH THE BLESSING. I've done nothing wrong.

3. God is reminding Jacob TO FACE HIS STRONHOLD

Genesis 32:1-12

Genesis 32:29-30

In our western church culture, we celebrate wealth and power and strength, prestige and many such things. The things we despise are fear, weakness, failure, and doubt. We tend to view these as signs of lack of faith. However, we should know that in real life, naive optimism and the glowing accolades of glamour and success are a recipe for discontent and despair. Sooner or later, the cold, hard realism of life catches up with all of us.

"...Jacob's divine encounter at the Jabbok River was a magnificent defeat of the human soul at the hands of God."

Frederick Buechner

