

CHAPTER ANALYSIS FORM

Chapter: 32

Chapter Title: Jacob returns

1. Chapter Summary:

1. Chapter 31
 - a. Mahanaim 1-2
 - b. Preparing for Esau 3-8
 - c. Jacob's prayer 9-12
 - d. Presents for Esau 13-21
 - e. Wrestling with God 22-32

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	Chapter 31		
1-2	Jacob meets God's angels on his homeward journey. Names the place of the meeting Mahanaim (Camp).	1-2	Jacob had a dream about angels on his way to Laban's and now meets them in person. God is really trying to get through to him that he is the God of his fathers' and his promise is sure.
3-8	Jacob sends messengers to Esau to inform him Jacob was returning home. The messengers return and tell Jacob Esau is coming with 400 men. Jacob assumes the worst and divides his camp in two in order to save part.	3-8	The last time Jacob had seen Esau, Esau had promised to kill him. Jacob may have thought the intervening years had only intensified his brother's anger. It is interesting that Jacob still works out of a spirit of fear. His plan makes sense, from a worldly perspective but he still doesn't trust God.
9-12	Jacob prays to God and admits his unworthiness and need. He asks God for protection from Esau and reminds Him of the covenant.	9-12	It appears that Jacob is finally beginning to understand. Despite all his machinations he comes to a point where he realizes he has no control and is totally dependent upon God. As we will see, he doesn't become a totally different person, but he does have a different perspective of God.
13-21	Jacob arranges a series of presents for Esau in hopes of appeasing him and assuaging his anger.	13-21	Jacob wants to buy his brother's affection through appeasement. He is still working in the human realm. The speech he gives his servants to use is interesting considering the blessings he and Esau received along with the promise made at their birth.
22-32	Jacob spends the night alone. A Man comes to him and they wrestle all night. At dawn, the Man injures Jacob's hip as he saw he was not able to defeat Jacob. Jacob asks for a blessing and is renamed Israel. He asks for the stranger's name but is not rewarded. He names the place Peniel. A note is provided explaining why Jews do not eat the muscle that passed by the hip joint.	22-32	Although we are never given the man's name, we can infer it is God from Jacob's requests and the man's actions. His new name is Israel – "he who strives with God," or "God strives" although the second meaning does not fit the context of the passage. In either case, Jacob has gone from being a trickster to one who has wrestled with God and now know him as his own. Peniel means "face of God." Jacob has had a personal encounter with the living God and is changed because of that encounter.

4. Correlation		5. Application
Where Else Is It Explained?		What Will I Do About It?
Verse		
	Chapter 31	
1-2	Joshua 21:38 2 Samuel 2:8 2 Kings 2:8; 6:16-17 Psalm 34:7	
3-8	Genesis 33:1, 8	
9-12	Hebrews 11:12	
13-21	Proverbs 18:16; 21:14	
22-32	Genesis 35:10 Hosea 12:3-4	

6. Conclusions

7. One Personal Application

