

**“a man wrestled with him  
till daybreak.”**

**Genesis 32**

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## **Genesis 32:1-2**

**1** Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. **2** When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is the camp of God!” So he named that place Mahanaim.

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“In Jacob’s departure from Canaan and in his return, the angels of God appeared to him, suggesting their accompaniment of the patriarch during the entirety of his travels.”**

**The New American Commentary**

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**Genesis 32:22-23**

**21** So Jacob’s gifts went on ahead of him, but he himself spent the night in the camp. **22** That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23** After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“The delay [in following his family], for whatever reason, led immediately to the attack that changed the course of his life and that of his descendants.”**

**The New American Commentary**

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**Genesis 32:24-26**

**24** So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. **25** When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. **26** Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**[Jacob wrestled] “with God Himself... Jacob had struggled all his life to prevail, first with Esau, then with Laban. Now as he was about to reenter Canaan, he was shown that it was God that he must “wrestle”- not with Esau or any other human being.”**

**NIV 2011 Study Bible**

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“God came to him [Jacob] in such a form that Jacob could wrestle with Him successfully, yet He showed Jacob that He could disable him at will.”**

**NIV 2011 Study Bible**



**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“Since this is God’s messenger, Jacob now has the opportunity to obtain the blessing that had escaped him until now, for he had only received his father’s blessing and that was given unwittingly... This experience provides Jacob (and his descendants) the confirmation of God’s blessing.”**

**The New American Commentary**

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

## **Genesis 32:27-28**

**27** The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. **28** Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“Now that Jacob had acknowledged God as the source of blessing and was about to reenter the Promised Land, the Lord acknowledged Jacob as His servant by changing his name.” [Israel means “he struggles with God”]**

**NIV 2011 Study Bible**

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

## **Genesis 32:29**

**29** Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“The divine name partakes of the sacredness of God’s being, and was to be revered. The pagans believed that knowing the name of a god imparted ability to invoke that deity’s power. Here, however, the divine name is withheld, showing that the Lord’s revelation of His name is a gracious act of divine initiative, not a response to human effort in invoke and control God.”**

**Reformation Study Bible**

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**Genesis 32:30-32**

**30** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” **31** The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. **32** Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob’s hip was touched near the tendon.

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“Peniel” means  
“face of God.”**

**NIV 2011 Study Bible**

**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“Jacob’s preservation during his “face-to-face” meeting the almighty God confirmed his preservation during his imminent encounter with Esau, a mere human being.”**

**Reformation Study Bible**



**“a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”**

**“Jacob retained in his body,  
and Israel retained in her  
dietary practice, a perpetual  
reminder of this fateful  
encounter with God.”**

**NIV 2011 Study Bible**

# **Life Applications**

**We will “wrestle” with Jesus  
in our walk with Him.**

# Final Thoughts

## James 1:2-8

**2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**5** If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **6** But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

# Final Thoughts

## Romans 5:3-5

**3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

# Final Thoughts

## Acts 2:37-40

**37** When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” **40** With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

# Final Thoughts

**John 20:27**

**27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”