

# Tell me your name!

Yaaqob at Yabboq: His fight with God ...



Rembrandt H. van Rijn

1606 - 1669

# Tell me your name

Genesis 32

Then he said,

*“Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.”*

But he said,

*“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”* <sup>27</sup>

So he said to him,

*“What is your name?”*

And he said,

*“Jacob.”*

Genesis 32,26-27



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Genesis 32

- I. Jacob's encounter with angels (Gen. 32,2-3)
- II. Jacob's try to keep his possessions (Gen. 32,4-24)
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- I. **Jacob's encounter with angels (Gen. 32,2-3)**
  - angels: signs of the presence of God as well as of fight („God's camp“, V. 2)
  - angels: remembrances of his flight (Gen. 28)
- II. **Jacob's try to keep his possessions (Gen. 32,4-24)**
- III. **Jacob's fight with God (Gen. 32,25-33)**



# Tell me your name

## Genesis 32

### Genesis 28

- go out of the country
- fear before Esau
- sun goes down
- Angels of God: the ladder
- name of the place:  
Beth-El – ***House of God***
- God's promise:  
land & descendance

### Genesis 32

- back into the country
- fear before Esau
- sun goes up
- Angels of God: the camp
- name of the place:  
Pni-El - ***Face of God***
- God's blessing: new identity, new name (Isra-El)

# Tell me your name

## Genesis 32

### I. Jacob's encounter with angels (Gen. 32,2-3)

- angels: signs of the presence of God (Gen. 32)
- angels: remembrances of his flight (Gen. 28)
- **And „inbetween“**
  - ✓ 20 years in Haran
  - ✓ 4 wives, 12 Kids and (even worth) 1 uncle Laban ...

### II. Jacob's try to keep his possessions

### III. Jacob's fight with God

(Gen. 32,25-33)



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- I. Jacob's encounter with angels (Gen. 32,2-3)
- II. Jacob's try to keep his possessions (Gen. 32,4-24)
  - His own trying (V. 4-9)
    - ✓ His submissive message (V. 4-5)
    - ✓ His offering of a bribe (V. 5, cp. V. 13)
    - ✓ fear – defence – dividing the „troops“, in order to save at least 50% ... (V. 7-8.10)
  - His true (?) prayer (V. 9-12)
  - His organized reconciliation (V. 14-24)



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- II. **Jacob's try to keep his possessions (Gen. 32,4-24)**
  - His own trying (V. 4-9)
  - His true (?) prayer (V. 9-12)
    - ✓ Remembrance of God's order in chapter 31 (V. 10)
    - ✓ Acknowledge of his own position (V. 11)
    - ✓ Asking for salvation (V. 12);  
Realization of his fear
    - ✓ Remembrance of God's promise  
in chapter 28 (V. 13)



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  - His true (?) prayer (V. 9-12)
  - His organized reconciliation (V. 13b-24)
    - ✓ Present for Esau (V. 13-15)
    - ✓ Orders for transaction (V. 17-22)
    - ✓ Reconciliation =  
„cover of ones face“ (vgl. V. 20)  
> try to appease



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Genesis 32

- **Excursion on „Reconciliation“**

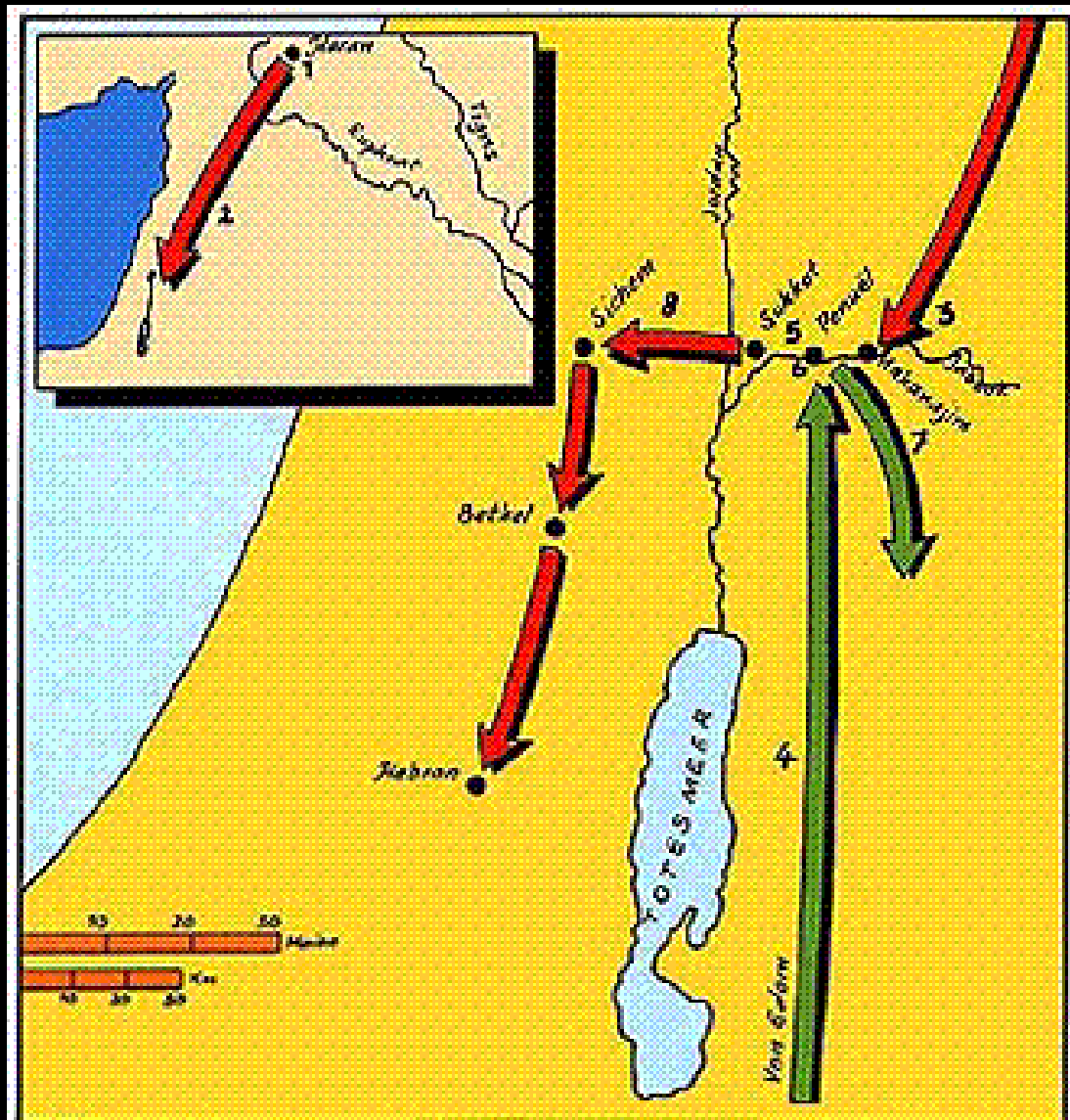
*“I will appease him with the present that goes before me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.”*

Literally (cp. footnotes in the german bible):

- I will try to **cover his face** (to „appease“) with the gift that goes before me
- Only afterward I will **see his face**
- Perhaps he will **lift up my face** (will „accept me“)?

# Tell me your name

## Genesis 32



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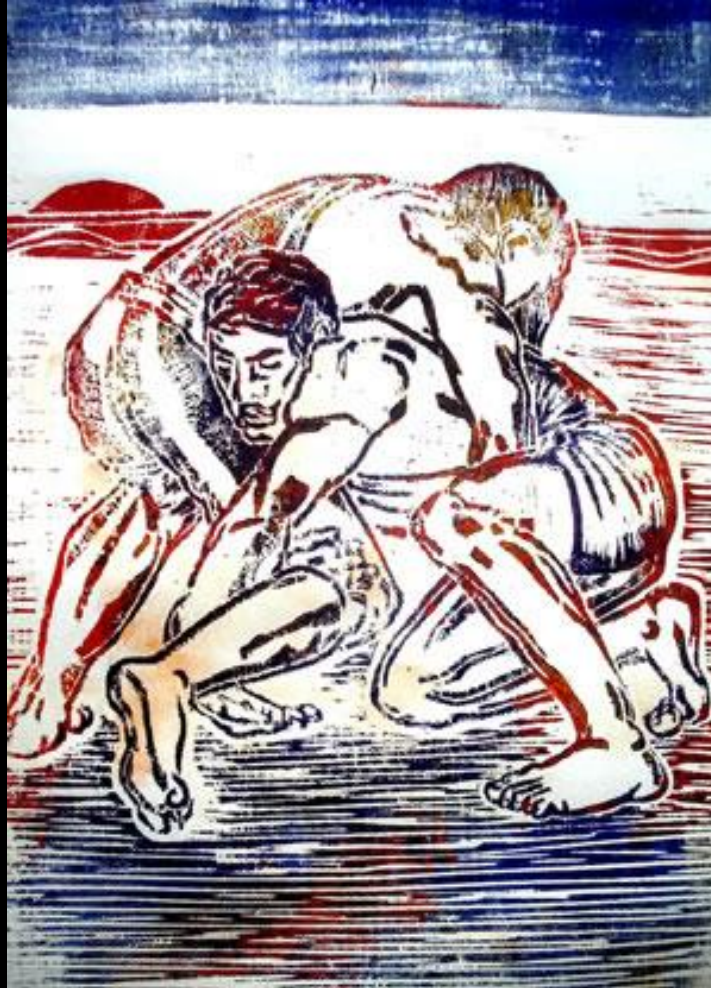
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  - Loneliness: Yaaqob – Yabboq (V. 23-25a)
  - „Conversion“ (V. 25-28)
  - Blessing (V. 29-30)



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Genesis 32



**The Fight**

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  - Loneliness: Yaaqob – Yabboq (V. 23-25a)
  - „Conversion“ (V. 25-28)
    - ✓ Fight (V. 25)
    - ✓ Weakness (V. 26)
    - ✓ Plea for Blessing (V. 27)
    - ✓ Self-Awareness: „I am Jacob“ = tricker (V. 28, cp. Gen. 27,19.24)





# Tell me your name

## Genesis 32

### III. Jacob's fight with God (Gen. 32,25-33)

- Loneliness: Yaaqob – Yabboq (V. 23-25a)
- „Conversion“ (V. 25-28)
  - ✓ Fight (V. 25)
  - ✓ Weakness (V. 26)
  - ✓ Plea for Blessing (V. 27)
  - ✓ Self-Awareness: „I am **JACOB**“
- Blessing (V. 29-30)
  - ✓ Fighter w/ God: **ISRAEL** (V. 29)
  - ✓ God-Awareness (V. 30, cp. Judges 13,18)



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Gen. 32,31: So Jacob named the place *Peniel*, **for** he said, "I have **seen God** face to face, yet my life has been preserved." 31 Now the **sun rose upon him** just as he crossed over Penuel, and **he was limping** on his thigh.

cp. Judges 13,15: So Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God."

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Hosea 12,2: The LORD (...) will punish **Jacob** according to his ways; He will repay him according to his deeds. <sup>3</sup>

- In the womb he took his brother by the heel
- And in his maturity he **contended with God**.  
<sup>4</sup> Yes, he **wrestled with the angel** and prevailed;  
He wept and sought His **favor**.
- He found Him at Bethel. And there He spoke with us ...

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  - already in chp. 28 (Bethel-ledder) Jacob had a first revelation of God, w/ blessings of salvation
  - but only here in chp. 32 (Pniel) he finally begun (!) to realize who God is and who he himself is
  - his life was not preserved (saved), before he did admit, who he really was in himself („Jacob“)

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## Elements of a true conversion (from this story)

- To realize that I stand before God – always/only alone!
- To be robbed of all human means (to help myself)
- To understand that „atonement“ & „reconciliation“
  - a) are not given in our hands
  - b) are needed not only in „horizontal“ relationships ...
- To recognise / confess who I am in my own nature („Jacob“ = tricker towards God & Man)
- To receive a new identity („Israel“)
- To become aware of God & self

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**The fight at Jabbok** (the *letting go* of our lies about our life), as well as the *Realization* of who the Lord really is, is a picture of a true conversion of a person and the starting-point of true holiness

- Success in holiness starts, when you realize your self
- The most meaningful step in Self-Awareness ist to come to know God, how He is
- Self-Awareness / Realization of God, go hand in hand

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I have been crucified with Christ;  
and it is no longer I who live,  
but Christ lives in me;  
and the life which I now live in the flesh  
I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2,20

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Yaaqob at Yabboq:  
His Fight with God ...

## To-Do's:

- When did **you** realize who you are? Have you at all?
- Do **you** already have realized who God is? From where came this revelation / information? What did **you** understand from God? How has this be shown to others?
- Have **you** received your new identity in Christ by faith? Do **you** rest in that truth?
- Do **you** apply spiritual energy to receive God's blessing? Or have you given up?





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