

Theme: JACOB’S DISTRESS AT JABBOK

Memory Verse: *Psalm 32:7 “Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.”*

Text: Genesis 32:1-32

We return in our studies to the story of Jacob, Abraham’s grandson and an heir of the covenant of grace. Right from birth, Jacob’s philosophy seemed to be a “seize your-destiny-in-your-own hands” resulting in fierce battle with everyone he came in contact with. Although Jacob’s struggles eventually won him riches, honour and fame, he made many enemies in the process. His twin brother, his maternal uncle, his heathen neighbours and even his offended conscience each had an axe to grind him with.

As he left Laban, happy that there was peace between them, a company of angels met him. “And Jacob went on his way, and the angel of God met him” (Genesis 32:1). This encounter must have encouraged Jacob a great deal and refreshed him for the challenges ahead. Despite his returning home to Canaan to enjoy the fruits of his personal labours, he must first face his aggrieved bitterest enemy, Esau, and he must engage in his fiercest wrestling encounter with the angel of the Lord.

The prospect of the former filled Jacob with fear. At the border of Canaan, just before meeting Esau, Jacob had a vision of the angels of God that “encamps round about those that fear Him, and deliver them”. The returning fugitive needed all the encouragement he could get at this time. As Jacob commenced to make amends for his deceitful past, the God of all grace comforted him with His divine presence. The consolations of God are not small with penitent souls when they are treading the path of repentance, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 51:17).

	DAILY BIBLE READING	
	MORNING	EVENING
SUNDAY	Psalms 88	Psalms 89
MONDAY	Psalms 90	Psalms 91
TUESDAY	Psalms 92	Psalms 93
WEDNESDAY	Psalms 94	Psalms 95
THURSDAY	Psalms 96	Psalms 97
FRIDAY	Psalms 98	Psalms 99
SATURDAY	Psalms 100	Psalms 101