

SYNCHRONIZING THE HOLY BIBLE (KJV&NAS) and JASHER

The story format is for easier reading. Duplications removed.

Jacob's story continued, Part 8

By Maralyn B. Dyck

Introduction: Where the Dead Sea Scrolls are the same as the Bible, I have, for the most part, used the Dead Sea Scrolls for this story. The Bible version, of course, you can read from the Bible. My comments are in brackets. The Holy Bible will be in black normal writing and the scrolls will be in Italics. Remember, the scrolls are not divine scripture, but they appear to be very accurate as far as history is concerned; they give more details which are very interesting. Various interpreters could have changed things a bit over the years.

Genesis 30-32:1-12; Jasher 32:1-41:

At that time Jacob's mother, Rebecca, sent her nurse Deborah the daughter of Uz, and two of Isaac's servants unto Jacob. And they came to Jacob to Haran and they said unto him, Rebecca has sent us to thee that thou shalt return to thy father's house to the land of Canaan; and Jacob hearkened unto them in this which his mother had spoken.

At that time, the other seven years which Jacob served Laban for Rachel were completed, and it was at the end of fourteen years that he had dwelt in Haran that Jacob said unto Laban, give me my wives and send me away, that I may go to my land, for behold my mother did send unto me from the the land of Canaan that I should return to my father's house.

And Laban said unto him, Not so I pray thee; if I have found favor in thy sight do not leave me; appoint me thy wages and I will give them, and remain with me.

And Jacob said unto him, This is what thou shalt give me for my wages, that I shall this day pass through all thy flock and take away from them every lamb that is speckled and spotted and such as are brown amongst the sheep and amongst the goats, and if thou wilt do this thing for me I will return and feed thy flock and keep them as at first.

And Jacob did so, and Laban removed from his flock all that Jacob had said and gave them to him.

And Jacob placed all that he had removed from Laban's flock in the hands of his sons. And he put a distance of three days' journey between himself and Laban, while feeding the rest of Laban's flock.

And when the servants of Isaac which he had sent unto Jacob saw that Jacob would not then return with them to the land of Canaan to his father, they then went away from them him, and they returned home to the land of Canaan.

And Deborah remained with Jacob in Haran, and she did not return with the servants of Isaac to the land of Canaan, and Deborah resided with Jacob's wives and children in Haran.

Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which was in the rods.

And he set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, even in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink. So the flocks mated by the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped speckled and spotted.

He kept his own herds apart from Laban's. Moreover, it came about whenever the stronger of the flocks were mating, that Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods. When the flock was feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys.

And Jacob served Laban six years longer and when the sheep brought forth, Jacob removed from them such as were speckled and spotted, as he had determined with Laban, and Jacob did so at Laban's for six years, and the man increased abundantly and he had cattle and maid servants and men servants, camels, and asses.

And Jacob had two hundred drove of cattle, and his cattle were of large size and of beautiful appearance and were very productive, and all the families of the sons of men desired to get some of the cattle of Jacob, for they were exceedingly prosperous.

And many of the sons of men came to procure some of Jacob's flock, and Jacob gave them a sheep for a man servant or a maid servant or for an ass or a camel, or whatever Jacob desired from them they gave him.

And Jacob obtained riches and honor and possessions by means of these transactions with the sons of men, and the children of Laban envied him of this honor.

And in the course of time he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and of that which was our father's has he acquired all this glory. And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban and his children, and behold it was not toward him in those days as it had been before.

And the Lord appeared to Jacob at the expiration of the six years, and said unto him, Arise, go forth out of this land, and return to the land of thy birthplace and I will be with thee.

And Jacob rose up at that time and he mounted his children and wives and all belonging to him upon camels, and he went out to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac.

And Laban did not know that Jacob had gone from him, for Laban had been that day sheep-sheering.

And Rachel stole her father's images, and she took them and concealed them upon the camel upon which she sat, and she went on.

[People in Haran bowed down to idols and believed that they could speak to them and get answers. Rachel did not want the idols to tell where they were going or how to find them. She did not want them for herself for worship. Jasher gives a long gruesome description of what they do, but knowing those details does not help. I am leaving that part out.]

And Rachel stole these images which were her father's, in order that Laban might not know through them where Jacob had gone.

And Laban came home and he asked concerning Jacob and his household, and he was not to be found, and Laban sought his images to know where Jacob had gone, and could not find them, and he went to some other images, and he inquired of them and they told him that Jacob had fled from him to his father's, to the land of Canaan.

And Laban then rose up and he took his brothers and all his servants, and he went forth and pursued Jacob, and he overtook him in mount Gilead.

And Laban said unto Jacob, What is this thou hast done to me to flee and deceive me, and take my daughters and their children as captives taken by the sword?

And thou didst not suffer me to kiss them and send them away with joy, and thou didst steal my gods and didst go away.

And Jacob answered Laban, saying, Because I was afraid lest thou wouldst take thy daughters by force from me; and now with whomsoever thou findest thy gods he shall die.

And Laban searched for the images and he examined in all Jacob's tents and furniture, but could not find them.

And Laban said unto Jacob, We will make a covenant together and it shall be a testimony between me and thee; if thou shalt afflict my daughters, or shalt take another wife besides my daughters, even God shall be a witness between me and thee in this matter.

And they took stones and made a heap, and Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee, therefore he called the name thereof Gilead.

And Joseph and Laban offered sacrifice upon the mount, and they ate there by the heap, and they tarried in the mount all night, and Laban rose up early in the morning, and he wept with his daughters and he kissed them, and he returned unto his place.

And he hastened and sent off his son Beor, who was seventeen years old, with Abichor of the son of Uz, the son of Nahor, and with them were ten men.

And they hastened and went and passed on the road before Jacob, and they came by another road to the land of Seir.

And they came unto Esau and said unto him, Thus saith the brother and relative, thy mother's brother Laban, the son of Bethuel, saying, Hast thou heard what Jacob thy brother has done unto me, who first came to me naked and bare, and I went to meet him, and brought him to my house with honor, and I made him great, and I gave him my two daughters for wives and also two of my maids.

And God blessed him on my account, and he increased abundantly, and had sons, daughters and maid servants.

He had also an immense stock of flocks and herds, camels and asses, also silver and gold in abundance; and when he saw that his wealth increased, he left me whilst I went to shear my sheep, and he rose up and fled in secrecy.

And he lifted his wives and children upon camels, and he led away all his cattle and property which he acquired in my land, and he lifted up his countenance to go to his father Isaac, to the land of Canaan.

And he did not suffer me to kiss my daughters and their children, and he led my daughters as captives taken by the sword, and he also stole my gods and he fled. And now I have left him in the mountain of the brook of Jabuk, him and all belonging to him; he lacketh nothing.

If it be thy wish to go to him, go then and there wilt thou find him, and thou canst do unto him as thy soul desireth and Laban's messengers came and told Esau all these things.

And Esau heard all the words of Laban's messengers, and his anger was greatly kindled against Jacob, and he remembered his hatred, and his anger burned within him.

And Esau hastened and took his children and servants and the souls of his household, being sixty men, and he went and assembled all the children of Seir the Horite and their people, being three hundred and forty men, and took all this number of four hundred men with drawn swords, and he went unto Jacob to smite him.

And Esau divided this number into several parts, and he took the sixty men of his children and servants and the souls of his household as one head, and gave them in care of Eliphaz his eldest son.

And the remaining heads he gave to the care of the six sons of Seir the Horite, and he placed every man over his generation and children.

And the whole of this camp went as it was, and Esau went amongst them toward Jacob, and he Conducted them with speed.

And Laban's messengers departed from Esau and went to the land of Canaan, and they came to the house of Rebecca the mother of Jacob and Esau.

And they told her saying, Behold thy son Esau has gone against his brother Jacob with four hundred men, for he heard that he was coming, and he is gone to make war with him, and to smite him and to take all that he has.

And Rebecca hastened and sent seventy-two men from the servants of Isaac to meet Jacob on the road; for she said, Peradventure, Esau may make war in the road when he meets him.

And these messengers went on the road to meet Jacob, and they met him in the road of the brook on the opposite side of the brook Jabuk, and Jacob said when he saw them, This camp is destined to me from God, and Jacob called the name of that place Machnayim.

And Jacob knew all his father's people, and he kissed them and embraced them and came with them, and Jacob asked them concerning his father and mother, and they said, They were well.

And these messengers said unto Jacob, Rebecca thy mother has sent us to thee, saying, I have heard, my son, that thy brother Esau has gone forth against thee on the road with men from the children of Seir the Horite.

And therefore, my son, hearken to my voice and see with thy counsel what thou wilt do, and when he cometh up to thee, supplicate him, and do not speak rashly to him, and give him a present from what thou possessest, and from what God has favored thee with.

And when he asketh thee concerning thy affairs, conceal nothing from him, perhaps he may turn from his anger against thee and thou wilt thereby save thy soul, thou and all belonging to thee, for it is thy duty to honor him, for he is thy elder brother.

And Jacob heard the words of his mother which the messengers had spoken to him, Jacob lifted up his voice and wept bitterly, and did as his mother commanded him.

And at that time Jacob sent messengers to his brother Esau toward the land of Seir, and he spoke to him words of supplication.

And he commanded them, saying, thus shall ye say to my Lord, to Esau, thus saith thy servant Jacob, Let not my lord imagine that my father's blessing with which he did bless me has proved beneficial to me.

For I have been these twenty years with Laban, and he deceived me and changed my wages ten times, as it has all been already told unto my lord.

And I served him in his house very laboriously, and God afterward saw my affliction, my labor and the work of my hands, and he caused me to find grace in his sight.

And I afterward through God's great mercy and kindness aquired oxen and asses and cattle, and men servants and maid servants.

And now I am coming to my land and my home to my father and mother, who are in the land of Canaan; and I have sent to let my lord know all of this in order to find favor in the sight of my lord, so that he may not imagine that I have of myself obtained wealth, or that the blessing with which my father blessed me has benefited me.

And those messengers went to Esau, and found him on the borders of the land of Edom going toward Jacob, and four hundred men of he children of Seir the Horite were standing with drawn swords.

And the messengers of Jacob told Esau all the words that Jacob had spoken to them concerning Esau.

Ans Esau answered them with pride and contempt, and said unto them, Surely I have heard and truly it has been told unto me what Jacob has done to Laban, who exalted him in his house and gave him his daughters for wives, and he beget sons and daughters, and abundantly increased in wealth and riches in Laban's house through his means.

And when he saw that his wealth was abundant and his riches great he fled with all belonging to him, from Laban's house, and he led Laban's daughters away from the face of their father, as captives taken by the sword without telling him of it.

And not only to Laban has Jacob done thus but also unto me has he done so and has twice supplanted me, and shall I be silent?

Now therefore I have this day come with my camps to meet him, and I will do unto him according to the desire of my heart.

And the messengers returned and came to Jacob and said unto him, We came to thy brother, to Esau, and we told him all thy words, and thus has he answered us, and behold he cometh to meet thee with four hundred men.

Now then we know and see what thou shalt do, and pray before God to deliver thee from him.

And when he heard the words of his brother which he had spoken to the messengers of Jacob, Jacob was greatly afraid and he was distressed.

And Jacob prayed to the Lord his God, and he said, O Lord God of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, thou didst say unto me when I went away from my father's house, saying, I am the Lord God of thy father Abraham and the God of Isaac, unto thee do I give this land and thy seed after thee, and I will make thy seed as the stars of heaven, and thou shalt spread forth to the four sides of heaven, and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

And thou didst establish thy words, and didst give unto me riches and children and cattle, as the utmost wishes of my heart didst thou give unto thy servant; thou didst give unto me all that I asked from thee, so that I lacked nothing.

And thou didst afterward say unto me, Return to thy parents and to thy birth place and I will still do well with thee. And now that I have come, and thou didst deliver me from Laban, I shall fall in the hands of Esau who will slay me, yea, together with the mothers of my children.

Now therefore, O Lord God, deliver me, I pray thee, also from the hands of my brother Esau, for I am greatly afraid of him.

And if there is no righteousness in me, do it for the sake of Abraham and my father Isaac. For I know that through kindness and mercy have I acquired this wealth; now therefore I beseech thee to deliver me this day with kindness and to answer me.

And Jacob ceased praying to the Lord, and he divided the people that were with him with the flocks and cattle into two camps, and he gave the half to the care of Damesek, the son of Eliezer, Abraham's servant, for a camp, with his children, and the other half he gave to the care of his brother Elianus the son of Eliezer, to be a camp with his children.

And he commanded them, saying, Keep yourselves at a distance with your camps, and do not come too near each other, and if Esau come to one camp and slay it, the other camp at a distance from it will escape him.

And Jacob tarried there that night, and during the whole night he gave his servants instructions concerning the forces and his children.

And the Lord heard the prayer of Jacob on that day, and the Lord then delivered Jacob from the hands of his brother Esau.

And the Lord sent four angels of the angels of heaven, and they went before Esau and came to him. And these angels appeared unto Esau and his people as two thousand men, riding upon horses furnished with all sorts of war instruments, and they appeared in the sight of Esau and all his men to be divided into four camps, with four chiefs to them.

And one camp went on and they found Esau coming with four hundred men toward his brother Jacob, and this camp ran toward Esau and his people and terrified them, and Esau fell off the horse in alarm, and all his men separated from him in that place, for they were greatly afraid.

And the whole camp shouted after them when they fled from Esau, and all the warlike men answered, saying, Surely we are the servants of Jacob, who is the servant of God, and who then can stand against us? And Esau said unto them, O then, my lord and brother Jacob is your lord, whom I have not seen for these twenty years, and now that I have this day come to see him, do you treat me in this manner?

And the angels answered him saying, As the Lord liveth, were not Jacob of whom thou speaketh thy brother, we had not let one remaining from thee and thy people, but only on account of Jacob we will do nothing to them.

And this camp passed from Esau and his men and it went away, and Esau and his men had gone from them about a league when the second camp came toward him with all sorts of weapons, and they also did unto Esau and his men as the first camp had done to them.

And when they had left it to go on, behold the third camp came toward him and they were all terrified, and Esau fell off the horse, and the whole camp cried out, and said, Surely we are the servants of Jacob, who is the servant of God, and who can stand against us?

And Esau again answered them saying, O then, Jacob my lord and your lord is my brother, and for twenty years I have not seen his countenance and hearing this day that he was coming, I went this day to meet him, and do you treat me in this manner?

And they answered him, and said unto him, As the Lord liveth, were not Jacob thy brother as thou didst say, we had not left a remnant from thee and thy men, but on account of Jacob of whom thou speakest being thy brother, we will not meddle with thee or thy men.

And the third camp also passed from them, and he still continued his road with his men toward Jacob, when the fourth camp came toward him, and they also did unto him and his men as the others had done.

And when Esau beheld the evil which the four angels had done to him and to his men, he became greatly afraid of his brother Jacob, and he went to meet him in peace.

And Esau concealed his hatred against Jacob, because he was afraid of his life on account of his brother Jacob, and because he imagined that the four camps that he had lighted upon were Jacob's servants. And Jacob tarried that night with his servants in their camps and he resolved with his servants to give unto Esau a present from all that he had with him, and from all his property, and Jacob rose up in the morning, he and his men, and they chose from amongst the cattle a present for Esau.

(Continued in the next article.)

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