

## Jacob and his new name

*Genesis 32:24*

In his journey to Mesopotamia, Jacob met with the Lord who spoke to him, and made him promises and assured him that He would be with him wherever he went, until the promises accomplished.

In Mesopotamia, at Laban's house, God saw the mistreatment Jacob received, and then he decided to return to his country. However, He changed Laban's plan and blessed Jacob before driving him out of the strange land. As we saw at Mahanaim, Jacob recognized the angel of the Lord who came to welcome him and said, this is the camp of God.

Jacob was left alone. He wrestled with the angel to whom he said: I will not let you go, unless you bless me. However, for Jacob to obtain the blessing he wanted so much.

- I. His name was to be changed. V27  
Jacob did not want the Angel to leave him and when he asked to be blessed, a question was thrown at him: What is your name?  
Jacob, he replied. The angel said to him, Thy name shall no longer be Jacob, but you will be called Israel. Why Israel and not Jacob?
  - a) The name Jacob means: deceiver, supplanter (A supplanter takes over or takes the place of someone else). He tried to hold his brother's heel in order to keep him from coming out before him. Gen.25: 26
  - b) The name Israel means: wrestler with God. Gen. 32:29
  
- II. Because Jacob received the blessing, his second demand was not granted. Why did he ask? The intervention was not strange.  
The angel answered with a question: why do you ask for my name?  
This issue is contradictory because:
  - a) God revealed Himself in the dream in chapter 28:16, and Jacob automatically knew it was God.
  - b) God spoke to him on many occasions in Mesopotamia, and he had never questioned the grounds that he was not sure who God was. Ch.31:3
  - c) Arriving at Mahanaim, he said, it is God's camp. Ch. 32: 2
  
- III. Jacob was blessed, because he wrestled with God and with men, and he was the winner. V28. Man's statement deserves to be understood not in physical and strategic standpoint, because who can fight against God and win?  
There are three words define the victory of Jacob:
  - a) His faith
  - b) His patience
  - c) His perseverance
  
- IV. Because Jacob's name was changed, he recognized that he was a new creature:
  - a) The salvation came in, and he was not the same.

He understood that he met God face to face and his soul was saved. V30  
b) Peniel must explain why he limped (v31)  
(Birth mark) it was a mark of the new birth which is different for each individual.

Sometimes when someone has changed circumstance can happen and serve as a remembrance of his conversion. If you are looking and thinking well, you remember one such example. Jacob has changed (His attitudes and His actions), but also His name.

Today we don't say the children of Jacob, but of Israel.