

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

Genesis 32:22-32

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. 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.

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

Genesis 32:22-32

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."

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."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD

Genesis 32:22-32

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.



THE FAMILY OF GOD:
A SERIES THROUGH GENESIS

TRANSFORMATION *of a* FAMILY

GENESIS 32:22-32

JACOB'S LIFE OF DYSFUNCTION

1. Jacob deceives Esau and flees.
2. Laban deceives Jacob.
3. God directs Jacob to return home.

Genesis 31:12-13

... I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.' "

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JACOB PREPARES TO MEET ESAU, AFRAID

Jacob prepares himself by doing two things:

1. He takes every possible precaution human wisdom can provide.
 - He divides everyone and everything into two groups. (Gen. 32:7-8)
 - He sends staggered groups of livestock as gifts on ahead, in hopes of appeasing his brother. (Gen. 32:13-21)

JACOB PREPARES TO MEET ESAU, AFRAID

Jacob prepares himself by doing two things:

1. He takes every possible precaution human wisdom can provide.

2. **Jacob prays.** (Gen. 32:9-12)

v. 9 He acknowledges God's consistency through the generations

v. 10 He confesses his unworthiness

He recognizes God's favor and providence

v. 11 He petitions God's protection from Esau's anger

v. 12 He reminds God of His promise

➤ In times of fear and distress, do I respond by turning to God in prayer?

JACOB ARRIVES AT THE JABBOK

Genesis 32:22-24a

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. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone...

- Jacob's isolation is both physical and spiritual.
- God has taken Jacob away from all the things he used to rely on.

"My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9)

➤ If I were in Jacob's place, what people, possessions, and resources would God need to take away?

JACOB WRESTLES ALL NIGHT

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."

- Jacob is engaged in an all-night-long, one-on-one, hand-to-hand combat.

JACOB WRESTLES ALL NIGHT

Genesis 32:30

³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because **I saw God face to face**, and yet my life was spared.”

JACOB WRESTLES ALL NIGHT

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."

- Jacob is engaged in an all-night-long, one-on-one, hand-to-hand combat.
- The **man** wrestling with Jacob is God, Himself.
- Jacob refuses to give up and clings to the man for His blessing.

JACOB'S NEW NAME

Genesis 32:27-29

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."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

- The Patriarch must identify himself as Jacob, the heel-catcher (deceiver).
- The new name marks the total transformation of Jacob's identity.
 - Jacob (heel-catcher) -> Israel (Struggles with God; Price of God).
 - His descendants should possess the same faith, character, and name.

➤ What is your namesake?

Israel
(*Wrestles with God*)



Israelites



Warriors for/with God

Christ
(*Christ; Anointed One*)



Christian



God's anointed; Little Christs

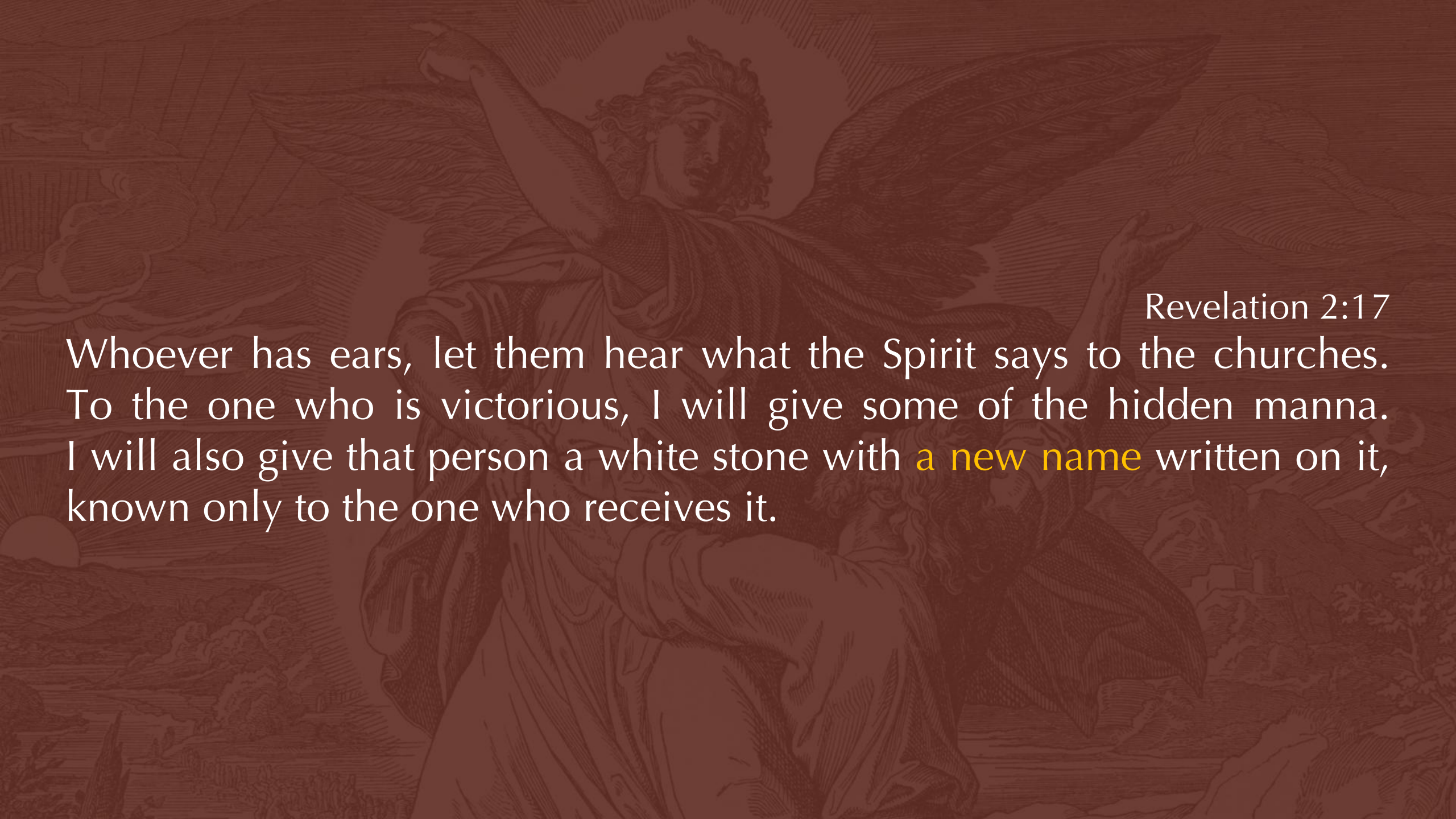
JACOB TRANSFORMED AT PENIEL

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.

- God’s blessing is a gift of grace, given to the lowly.
- Jacob’s limp (weakness) served as a reminder of what it means to persevere in wrestling with God.
- Only through being wounded by God could Jacob successfully lead his broken family to healing.



Revelation 2:17

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna.
I will also give that person a white stone with **a new name** written on it,
known only to the one who receives it.



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