

Genesis 32:1–12

Brought to a Sense of Worship and Unworthiness

Main idea: The Lord employs several means at once to bring Jacob to an awareness of worship unto God's goodness and of his own unworthiness of that goodness. As those who seek to grow in awareness of the same things, we learn some of the means by which God does this for us, and find ourselves ultimately pointed to Christ.

¹ So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ² When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

³ Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. ⁴ And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. ⁵ I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight." ' "

⁶ Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him." ⁷ So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies. ⁸ And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."

⁹ Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you': ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. ¹¹ Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. ¹² For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.' "

Introduction

Growing from grumbling to worship

1. A glorious confession
 - a. Not worthy of the smallest bit of God's goodness
 - b. But that goodness is decidedly not small! (steadfast love and faithfulness)
2. Means by which God brings him (and us) there
 - a. Reminder/renewal of past experiences of God
 - b. Difficulties/challenges that lay ahead
 - c. Moments of recounting God's mercy thus far
 - d. Immediate threats of great danger
 - e. Reflection/meditation upon God's Word
3. Jesus: the One to whom we must always be brought by combining awareness of God's goodness with awareness of our unworthiness.

Conclusion

The Lord employs several means at once to bring Jacob to an awareness of worship unto God's goodness and of his own unworthiness of that goodness. As those who seek to grow in awareness of the same things, we learn some of the means by which God does this for us, and find ourselves ultimately pointed to Christ