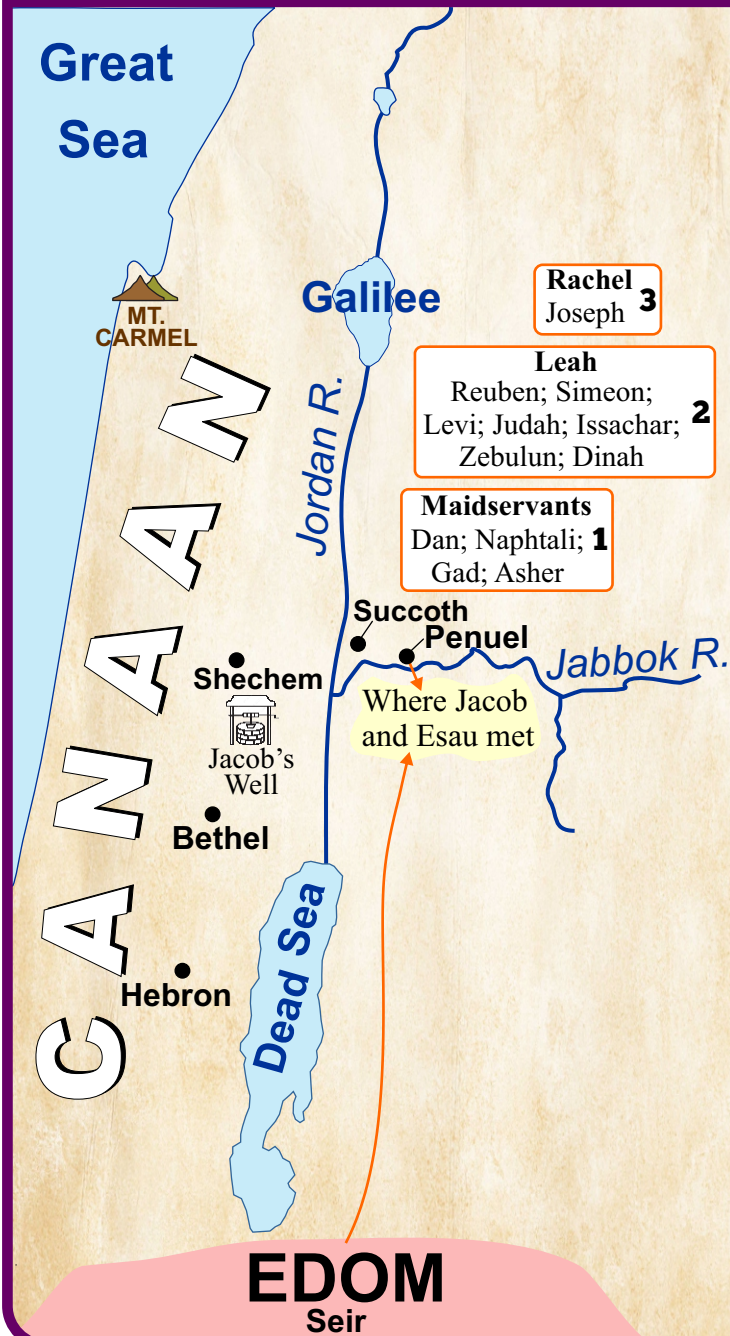


JACOB: RECONCILIATION WITH ESAU — GENESIS 33



JACOB'S CAREFUL PREPARATIONS (v.1-2)

1 Maidservants
Dan; Naphtali; Gad; Asher

FRONT

2 Leah
Reuben; Simeon; Levi; Judah;
Issachar; Zebulun; Dinah

MIDDLE

3 Rachel
Joseph;
[Benjamin]

LAST

- Jacob gave those that were dearest to him the most opportunity to escape placing them last.

JACOB DEMONSTRATES HIS SUBMISSION (v.3)

- Jacob bowed to Esau showing submission to him.

ESAU WARMLY GREETES JACOB AND HIS FAMILY (v.4-7)

- Earlier Esau had cared nothing for his birthright (**Ge.25:32-34**), and he now cared little for his old grudges.
- After the initial greeting to Jacob, Esau looked in surprise at the large contingent of women and children which made up Jacob's family.
- Jacob had sent Esau an account of the increase of his estate, but had made no mention of his children, perhaps because he would not expose them to his rage.

ESAU RECEIVES JACOB'S GIFTS (v.8-11)

- In that culture, you never accepted a gift from an enemy, but only from a friend. To accept the gift was to accept the friendship.
- Esau did not want the gift of Jacob because Esau himself had an abundance. When Jacob insisted, he took the gift out of courtesy.

JACOB AND ESAU PART THEIR WAYS (v.12-17)

- Esau is saying, "Now as you return to the land, let me go before you, show you the way, and be protection for you."
- Jacob led Esau to think that he needed to travel slowly because of his young children and young animals, and that he would meet him at Seir.
- Jacob's children were not "weak" and the flocks had already traveled a long way.
- Because Jacob declined to go with Esau's guidance and protection, Esau offered some of his soldiers to serve as an escort to Jacob's caravan. Again, Jacob declined.

JACOB COMES TO SHECHEM (v.18-20)

1 Succoth (Ge.33:17)

- Succoth ("shelters") was named because of the booths he built for his livestock.

2 Shechem (Ge.33:18-20)

- Verse 18 forms a sort of epilogue to Jacob's sojourn outside the land.
- This is where Abram first camped when he arrived in Canaan (**Ge.12:6**).
- Jacob is on the way to Bethel, but he hasn't arrived there yet.
- His delay brought tragedy to his home and family (**Ge.34**). So it is in every age: incomplete obedience entails a high price.

3 Bethel (Ge.35:1)