

Lesson II.

GOD GIVES JACOB A NEW NAME

April 14, 1907

Genesis 32 : 9-12, 22-30—Memory Verses, 26-28.

Golden Text—Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.—Luke 10 : 20.

9 And Ja'cob said, O God of my father A'braham, and God of my father I'saac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee :

10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant ; for with my staff I passed over this Jor'dan ; and now I am become two bands.

11 Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of E'sau : for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.

12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

22 And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two women-servants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jab'bok.

23 And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.

24 And Ja'cob was left alone ; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh ; and the hollow of Ja'cob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

27 And he said unto him, What is thy name ? And he said, Ja'cob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Ja'cob, but Is'rael : for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

29 And Ja'cob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that

thou dost ask after my name ? And he blessed him there.

30 And Ja'cob called the name of the place Pen'iel : for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jacob lived with his uncle Laban many years, and helped him to take care of his flocks. He received as his wages flocks and herds of his own, and servants, and God blessed him, so that he became a very rich man. Then he began to long to go back to his old home, and at last he set out, taking with him his two wives—who were Laban's daughters, his eleven sons, and all his flocks, and everything he owned.

There was one thing, however, that made Jacob feel afraid to go back to Canaan. He remembered that his brother Esau had once said he would kill him; and when he was near his home and heard that his brother was coming to meet him, with four hundred men, he thought surely that Esau meant to do him harm.

So Jacob began to pray, saying, "Oh, God, Thou hast been very kind to me, and given me more riches and more blessings than I deserved; do not let Esau come now and hurt me and kill my wives and my little children, for Thou didst promise to take

care of me and bring me safely home again."

Then Jacob felt sure that God would hear his prayer, and went on his journey. At night time he reached a stream, which was so shallow at one place that it could be easily crossed. Jacob watched until the whole company was safely over, his wives, his children, his servants and cattle, and he only was left.

Then suddenly a strange man came, in the darkness, and wrestled with him. But Jacob was strong and sure on his feet and could not be thrown down, so they fought on and on, almost till daylight.

Then all at once the man reached out and touched Jacob's thigh, and it was put out of joint; so that he could fight no longer. Jacob knew then that the man must have some heavenly power, and held him fast, praying him to bless him before he went away.

"What is your name?" asked the Man, and he answered, "Jacob". "You shall not be called Jacob any longer", said the Man, "for I will give you a new name, 'Israel'.