

the twelve tribes of Israel. These sons were named Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Dan, Juda, Nephtali, Gad, Asser, Issachar, Zabulon, Joseph, and Benjamin. After remaining twenty years in Mesopotamia, Jacob returned with his whole family into the land of Canaan.

Q. What happened to Jacob on his return home?

A. His brother Esau, hearing of his approach, went to meet him with four hundred armed men. Unable to encounter such a force, Jacob was at first alarmed, but in a vision of the night an angel came and wrestled with him, leaving him the victory. The angel, therefore, gave him the name of Israel, which signifies *strong against God*, telling him at the same time that he who prevailed against God need not fear men.

Q. What effect had this vision on Jacob?

A. It encouraged him to meet his brother, whom before he had so much feared; and, indeed, when Esau beheld his brother Jacob advancing towards him, his hatred died away, and he saw in him only his long lost brother returning to his home.

Q. At what time did Jacob return from Mesopotamia to the land of Canaan?

A. One thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine years before Christ. 1739

Q. How old was Isaac when he died?

A. An hundred and eighty years. He was buried by his sons, Esau and Jacob, in the family burial-place at Mambre, near Hebron, which Abraham had bought, and where he and Sara, his wife, were already buried.