

Building on Biblical Foundations

“Who Are You?”

Karin Paparelli Peters

Genesis 32:24-30

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Genesis 30-32 – Summarized -

More children are born to Jacob by his wife Leah, her maid, and then finally by Rachel and her maid too. He is blessed with many cattle, goats and sheep. And he is told by the Lord to return to the land of his father.

After working for Laban 20 years, he separates from Laban and begins the journey back to Canaan. Laban hurries to overtake them on the road and accuses Jacob of stealing an idol. He does a search of the tents and does not find it, but Rachel indeed has stolen it and is hiding it in her tent, underneath her own body.

The two men agree to part with an oath of peace between them and Jacob continues his journey.

He feared meeting up with Esau – remember Esau wanted to kill Jacob. He sends gifts ahead of himself and parts his family into two groups and sends them away from himself. And this is where we find him. On the eve after he has separated his family, he is left alone and finds himself wrestling with a “man” all through the night.

We pick up the story in Genesis 32:24

24 And Jacob 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 Jacob'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, Jacob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

29 And Jacob 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 Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Do you know who you are?

I am not asking if you know who you have been? Or what you have been called? Or who you think you are? Or even what others think you are.

Do You KNOW who you are?

Jacob thought he knew who he was. He was son of Isaac and Rebecca. He was husband of Leah, husband of Rachel. He was the father of 11 sons. He was brother of Esau and from the land of Canaan. He worshipped the God of his father, and his father before him. Jehovah - The God of Isaac and Abraham. He was known as a supplanter, a deceiver, a liar and con artist. But that was not who he actually was.

In fear of what may befall him and his family, he prays during the night. One in the likeness of man appears and they wrestle. Jacob prevails and is then told who he actually is: Israel.

Israel means: He will rule as God –

for he has prevailed with God in prayer and has received God's blessing.

Jacob becomes Israel, one who prevails with God and with men. God's favor is upon him. And we will see that favor stay upon Israel. Once again the promise to Abraham to increase his heirs as the sand on the seashore, or the stars in the sky, is rekindled.

Jacob, *Israel*, had a destiny to fulfil. Israel still has a destiny to fulfil. The prophecies regarding Israel have not ceased to be forthcoming. Indeed we are living in the days of prophetic fulfilment. Who Israel is matters. It mattered then and it matters today.

Who you are matters. There is a course set for you, just as there is for Israel. So who are you?

It is important for each of us to know who we are. Not who we think we are, or who others may think we are, but who we actually are. Maybe you honestly don't know who you are.

Perhaps you have believed the lies and half-truths regarding who you are meant to be. If that is the case, let the truth wash over you. I have very good news indeed.

You are not who the world says you are, but you are who God says you are.

We have been learning about who God is. What is his nature? What is his character? That is important. We must know God if we are to trust God, and we must trust God if we are to accept who we are. We must accept who we are if we are to fulfil the destiny God has for each of us, here on the earth and in the ever-after.

So once again who are you? Let me help you. . .

1. First ALL are made in the image of God.
2. ALL are descendants of the first Adam – born into sin, corrupt from birth.
3. ALL are eternal. Whether you choose to spend eternity with God or without Him, that is a fact. God has set eternity in the hearts of men, everlasting torment awaits in the Lake of Fire.

If you have “put on Christ” you are

4. Cleansed of your sin, your transgressions and your guilt and therefore made holy by Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross.
5. You are NOW a new creation. No longer bound by the sins of your father, or your former self. Your DNA is now the blood of Christ.
6. You are an OVERCOMER. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places. You have been given the authority of Jesus to rule with him, here on the earth over every wicked and foul instrument of evil.
7. You are sons and daughters of the most high God.
8. You are the spotless bride of Christ, prepared before the foundations of the earth.
9. You are a city on a hill, a light on its stand, salt of the earth and a wise virgin.
10. You are an instrument of salvation, healing, restoration, hope, faith, strength, courage, truth, godliness, longsuffering, patience, joy, peace, obedience, and love.
11. You are foreigners and sojourners passing through this world, you are not of this world.
12. You are ambassadors for Christ and his eternal kingdom. You are here to herald his coming and announce his reign.
13. You are bought and paid for by the precious blood of God’s only son.
14. You are rescued and redeemed.
15. YOUR NAME IS CHRISTIAN. A name that was meant as an insult – little christs, became a badge of honor for those who were thrown into arenas with hungry lions, boiled in oil, crucified, beheaded, tortured and executed in manners I shall not even describe. CHRISTIAN – a name that is reviled today, mocked, insulted and associated with all things that are contrary to Jesus.

AND YOU TOO HAVE A DESTINY. You have been born for such a time as this. You have been born for this very moment in history. This is your time. This is my time. We have been strategically called to live on the earth, in America, in Clifton Tennessee for this very time.

Sit with your back straight, your head held high. You are royalty and your King is coming. Know who you are. The world around you may crumble. The people may be plunged into utter darkness, but You are LIGHT. The Light of the Lord resides inside of you. Let it shine.

We overcome evil with Good. No just any good, but the good that is Jesus in you. The hope of glory.

Like Jacob – do not shrink back from the struggle. Wrestle with God until you know who you are. Don't let go, don't back off. Cling to Him, until you are changed. It is time.

John 17:13 JESUS PRAYS FOR US ALL

13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by[d] the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Let us Pray ... Communion.