

JABBOK – THE MIRROR OF GOD

“And he rose up that night and passed over the ford of Jabbok.”

Genesis 32:22

I. The river Jabbok

A. Jabbok was a principal tributary of the Jordan River.

B. The name means “pouring out” or “emptying.”

C. At Jabbok we are left alone to meet God. (Genesis 32:22-26)

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

D. At Jabbok Jacob meets himself. (Genesis 32:27-32)

²⁷ The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” ²⁹ Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” ³¹ The sun rose

above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

II. Three things Jacob confronted in the mirror of Jabbok

A. Deception

B. Fear

C. Appeasement.

III. Four facts about Jabbok

A. At Jabbok surface commitment gives way to true intimacy with God.

B. At Jabbok all of our Esaus surface.

C. Jabbok is the place of complete surrender.

D. At Jabbok Jesus delivers us from besetting sins by changing our character. (John 1:47-51)

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

E. Jabbok is the place of an open heaven.