

The Round Character of Yaakov

Bereshit, 23, 4 -27,2:

The Fight with the Angel

(32, 23-24) That same night he arose, and taking his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, he crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After taking them across the stream, he sent across all his possessions.

(25) Jacob was left alone. And a figure wrestled with him until the break of dawn.

(26) When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he wrenched Jacob's hip at its socket, so that the socket of his hip was strained as he wrestled with him.

(27) Then he said, "Let me go, for dawn is breaking." But he answered, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

(28) Said the other, "What is your name?" He replied, "Jacob."

(16) The figure said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with divine and human, and have prevailed."

(17) Jacob asked, "Pray tell me your name." But he said, "You must not ask my name!" And he took leave of him there.

The Birth of Yaakov:

(24) When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.

(25) The first one emerged red, like a hairy mantle all over; so they named him Esau.

(26) Then his brother emerged, holding on to the heel of Esau; so they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

(27) When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the outdoors; but Jacob became a mild man (staying in camp, maybe raising livestock.)

(28) Isaac favored Esau because he had *tzayid befiv* (hunting in his mouth), but Rebekah favored Jacob.

(29) Once when Jacob was **cooking a stew (VaYazed)**, Esau **came in from the open**, famished.

(29) וַיֵּזֶד יַעֲקֹב בָּזִיד וַיָּבֵא עֵשָׂו מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה וְהוּא עָרִיב:

1. (שמות יח יא) עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי גָדוֹל ה' מִכָּל הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי בִדְבַר אֲשֶׁר זָדוּ עֲלֵיהֶם.

1. Now I know that Hashem is greater than all gods because of the matter in which they dealt arrogantly against them.

2. (שמות כא יד) וכי יִזְדּ אִישׁ עַל רֵעֵהוּ לְהַרְגוֹ בְּעָרְמָה מֵעַם מִזְבְּחֵי תִקְחֶנּוּ לְמוֹת:

2. If a man **schemes** and comes on his neighbor with cunning to kill him, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die

3. (דברים יז, יג) וְכָל הָעָם יִשְׁמְעוּ וְיִרְאוּ וְלֹא יִזְדוּן עוֹד

3. All the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more **presumptuously**.

4. (דברים, יח, כ) אֲךָ הַנְּבִיא אֲשֶׁר יִזְדּ לְדַבֵּר דְּבַר בְּשֵׁמִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר לֹא צִוִּיתִיו לְדַבֵּר. וּמֵת הַנְּבִיא הַהוּא:

4. But the prophet, who shall speak a word **presumptuously** in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak... that same prophet shall die.

*[זִיד, זִיד] **vb. boil up, seethe, act proudly, presumptuously, rebelliously** (NH Hiph. הזיד as Heb.; Aramaic of Zinjirli זִד *presumptuous*, DHM⁵⁶; Arabic زَاد (med. ʿ) *increase, exceed, exaggerate*, e.g. in talk; also Sab. n.pr. זִיד DHM⁴⁴ זִידאל *Id.*⁵² (on distinct. betw. זִיד and זִי in Sab. v. Sab.Denk. ⁶⁴); perhaps also Sab. מִזְדוּדִין *great one, prince*, e.g. SabDenkm⁸⁹)

Qal Pf. 3 fs. זִידָה Je 50:29; 3 pl. זִידוּ Ex 18:11; – of Egyptians, זִידוּ אֲשֶׁר זָדוּ עֲלֵיהֶם Ex 18:11 *in the matter as to which they acted presumptuously against them*; of Babylon, זִידָה אֶל־יִי Je 50:29 *against "hath she acted presumptuously*.

Hiph. Pf. 3 pl. הִזִידוּ Ne 9:10 + 2 t.; Impf. 3 ms. הִזִיד Dt 18:20; הִזִיד Ex 21:14; הִזִידוּ Gn 25:29; 3 mpl. הִזִידוּן Dt 17:13; 2 mpl. הִזִידוּ Dt 1:43;

1. *boil, seethe*, trans., הִזִידוּ יַעֲקֹב נִזִיד Gn 25:29 *and Jacob boiled pottage*.

2. *act presumptuously, insolently*, Ex 21:14 *בְּעָרְמָה לְהַרְגוֹ בְּעָרְמָה* when a man acteth presumptuously against his neighbour to slay him; usually against "; sq. vb. fin. Dt 1:43 *and ye acted presumptuously and went up*; sq. inf. 18:20 *the prophet who shall presume to speak a word in my name*; also abs. 17:13; elsewhere only Ne; of Egyptians 9:10 sq. על (= **Qal** Ex 18:11); abs. v 16 (|| וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ וְגוֹ' ||); v 29 (|| וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ וְגוֹ' ||).

The Dream:

(28, 10-11) Jacob left Beer-sheba, and set out for Haran. He came upon a certain place and stopped there for the night, for the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of that place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

(12) He had a dream; a ladder was set on the ground and its top reached to the sky, and angels were going up and down on it.

(13-14) And standing beside him was יהוה, who said, "I am יהוה, the God of **your father** Abraham and the God of Isaac: the ground on which you are lying I will assign to you and to your offspring. Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants.

(15) Remember, I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

(16) Jacob **awoke** from his sleep and said, "Surely יהוה is present in this place, **and I did not know it!**"

(17) Shaken, he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and that is the gateway to heaven."

(18-19) Early in the morning, Jacob **took** the stone that he had **put** under his head and **set** it up as a pillar and **poured** oil on the top of it. He **named** that site Bethel; but previously the name of the city had been Luz.

Post-Dream Activity:

(29, 1) Then Jacob **lifted up his feet**, and **went** to the land of the people of the east.

(2) There before his eyes was a well in the open. Three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for the flocks were watered from that well. The stone on the mouth of the well was large. (...)

(7) He said, "It is still broad daylight, too early to round up the animals; water the flock and take them to pasture."

(8-9) But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are rounded up; then the stone is rolled off the mouth of the well and we water the sheep." While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's flock—for she was its shepherd.

(10-11) And when Jacob **saw** Rachel, *the daughter of his uncle Laban*, and the flock of *the daughter of his uncle Laban*, Jacob **went** up and **rolled** the stone off the mouth of the well, and **watered** the flock of *the daughter of his uncle Laban*. Then Jacob **kissed** Rachel, and **broke** into tears. (6 verbs)

Rebekah	Rachel
(24, 15) when Rebekah, came out with her jar on her shoulder.	(29, 6) when his daughter Rachel, coming with the flock."
(16) The maiden was very beautiful—[and] a virgin,	(17) Rachel was shapely and beautiful.
(15) He had scarcely finished speaking, when Rebekah, came out with her jar on her shoulder.	(9) While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's flock—for she was its shepherd.
(28) The maiden ran and told all this to her mother's household.	(12) and Rachel ran and told her father .
(29) Laban ran out to the man at the spring	(13) Laban ran to greet him

(18) Jacob loved Rachel; so he answered, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

(19) Laban said, "Better that I give her to you than that I should give her to an outsider. Stay with me."

(20) So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

The Cause of the Change ('The Boomerang'):

(21) Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is fulfilled, that I may cohabit with her." And Laban gathered all the people of the place* and made a feast.

(22) When evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to him; and he cohabited with her. (...)

(25) When morning came, there was Leah! So he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I was in your service for Rachel! **Why did you fool me?**"

Jacob's Response to childless Rachel:

(30, 1) When Rachel saw that she had borne Jacob no children, she became envious of her sister; and Rachel said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die." (*Rivkah*)

(2) Jacob was incensed at Rachel, and said, "Can I take the place of God, who has denied you fruit of the womb?"

(3) She said, "Here is my maid Bilhah. Consort with her, that she may bear on my knees and that through her I too may have children." (*Sarah*)

*(31, 20) Now Yaakov **fooled** Lavan the Aramean, by not telling him that he was about to flee.*

Epilogue:

(32, 4) Now Yaakov sent messengers on ahead of him to Esav his brother in the land of Se'ir, in the territory of Edom...

(23-24) That same night he arose, and taking his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven sons, he crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After taking them across the stream, he sent across all his possessions.

(25) Jacob was left alone. And a figure wrestled with him until the break of dawn.

(26) When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he wrenched Jacob's hip at its socket, so that the socket of his hip was strained as he wrestled with him.

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