

“Wrestling with God”

So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 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. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” Genesis 32:24-26

Insight Into The Word: Jacob’s Isolation

Jacob was not expecting unseen visitors in the place of God. He isolated himself trying to escape everyone. This man is an Old Testament appearance of Christ.

God wants to do something in Jacob’s life so He shows up to strengthen and test him. This wrestling match is to get Jacob to conform to the Will of God and to quit conforming back into his old ways. However, Jacob refused to give up, turn away from, or submit to God. So, God inflicted him with pain in order to get his attention.

God had the power to hurt Jacob all the time, but He wanted him to willingly submit himself to God’s Will. When Jacob refused to give in willingly, God had to cause him some suffering in order for Jacob to humble himself.

Once the hip is out of socket, Jacob is now hanging on for life. He is in no position to wrestle anyone anymore. Clinging to God for dear life, he is now willing to do whatever God wants him to do and is finally dependent upon God alone.

Here are a few observations:

- God moves in our lives at unexpected times.
- God uses isolation to drive us into His presence.
- When we wrestle against God, He will sometimes inflict pain on us in order to get us to surrender our ways for His Will.

Thoughts to Ponder:

Have you ever had to wrestle with God over an issue in your life?

If so, what was the issue and why?