

Genesis 33:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

Analysis

And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at... This passage belongs to the Jacob narratives which demonstrate God's sovereign election overriding human merit and the transformation of a deceiver into Israel, the father of the twelve tribes. The Jacob cycle shows how divine purposes advance through flawed individuals whom God graciously transforms.

Key themes include God's sovereign choice ("the older shall serve the younger"), the consequences of deception and family dysfunction, exile and return patterns, wrestling with God leading to blessing, and covenant renewal across generations. Jacob's character development from manipulative deceiver to mature patriarch demonstrates sanctification's lifelong process.

Theologically significant aspects include:

1. divine election based on grace not merit (Romans 9:10-13)
2. God's faithfulness to covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness
3. discipline as evidence of divine love and means of transformation
4. generational patterns of sin requiring divine intervention to break
5. prayer and wrestling with God as legitimate expressions of faith.

Jacob's limp after wrestling God symbolizes how divine encounters leave permanent marks, transforming our approach to life and dependence on God rather than our own cunning.

Historical Context

The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. What specific changes in thinking or behavior does this verse call us to make?
3. In what ways does this narrative foreshadow or typify aspects of Christ's redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

מֵץ אֲתִי	נָא אָם אַל יִשְׁקַׁ בְּ	יְאַל נָא אָם אַל יִשְׁקַׁ בְּ	מֵץ אֲתִי
said	And Jacob	H408	H4994
H559	H3290	H518	H4994
			Nay I pray thee if now I have found
			H4672
כִּי עַל כִּי מִן כִּי עַל כִּי מִן כִּי	מִנְחַת יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים	אֶלְקָנָה מִנְחַת יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים	מִנְחַת יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים יְבָנִים
grace	in thy sight	then receive	my present
H2580	H5869	H3947	H4503
			at my hand
			H3027
			H3588
			H5921
			H3651
אֱלֹהִים פָּנִים כְּרָא תְּ פָנִים כְּרָא תְּ	אֱלֹהִים פָּנִים כְּרָא תְּ פָנִים כְּרָא תְּ	אֱלֹהִים פָּנִים כְּרָא תְּ פָנִים כְּרָא תְּ	אֱלֹהִים פָּנִים כְּרָא תְּ פָנִים כְּרָא תְּ
as though I had seen	the face	as though I had seen	the face
H7200	H6440	H7200	H6440
			of God
			H430
וְתִרְאָנִי			
and thou wast pleased with me			
H7521			

Additional Cross-References

Job 33:26 (Prayer): He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.

Revelation 22:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

Genesis 32:30 (References God): And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

