

Jacob Meets Esau

32:1 to 33:17

Jacob's two greatest adversaries were **Esau** and **Laban**. As **he** entered the Promised Land, **he** was leaving one and meeting the other. **Jacob's** mother **Rebekah** had told **him** that **she** would send for **him** as soon as **Esau** had cooled off (**27:44**). Knowing what a hothead **Esau** was, **she** assumed **his** anger would quickly pass away and **Ya'akov** could soon return. But **Jacob** had not heard from **her** during **his** long twenty years in Haran. Therefore, either **his** mother was ill or dead and unable to call **him** back home, or **Esau** still wanted to kill **him**. In addition, **Jacob** did not know about the state of **his** father's health, although **he** had heard **he** might still be alive in the land of **Canaan** (**31:18**). So **he** knew **he** was facing a very uncertain, and possibly dangerous, reception when **he** returned.⁵⁰⁰