

# Jacob's Time of Trouble

## A. Introduction: Dan. 12:1 (1319); Jer. 30:7

## B. The story of Jacob: Gen. 25-33

1. The name Jacob means "he takes by the heel," or "supplanter" or "cheater".
2. Prophecy foretold his role: **Gen. 25:23**
3. Esau sells his birthright to Jacob: **Gen. 25:29-34**
4. Jacob cheats his brother Esau out of the blessings: **Gen. 27**
5. Jacob flees to Laban: **Gen. 27:41 - Gen. 31**
6. Jacob returns to the land of promise: **Gen. 32-33**

## C. Details of Jacob's experience: Gen. 32-33

1. He spends 20 years exiled because of his own sin of cheating Esau: **Gen. 31:41**
2. Jacob returns home from exile at the express command of God: **Gen. 31:3, 13**
3. Esau's attack comes when Jacob is on the border of the Promised Land: **Gen. 32-33** (52)
4. It is his brother Esau that is marching against him with 400 men: **Gen. 33:1** (54); **Gen. 32:3-8** (52)
5. He does all he can to appease his brother's anger: **Gen. 32:3-20** (52); **33:8-11** (54)
6. Jacob clings to God's promises and wrestles with God for deliverance: **Gen. 32:9-12, 24-30** (53); **Hosea 12:4** (1330)
7. Jacob's name is changed from Jacob (which means "supplanter" or "cheater") to Israel which means "overcomer": **Gen. 32:27-28** (54)

## D. Purpose for the time of trouble

1. God gives to the wicked what they have tried to give the righteous: **2 Thess. 1:6-8** (1738); **Rev. 16:5-6** (1817); **18:20** (1820); **Isa. 26:20-21** (1053); **49:25** (1085)
2. To purify God's people: **Mal. 3:2-3** (1393); **1 Pet. 1:6-7** (1780); **4:12-13** (1784); **1 Cor. 3:13** (1672); **Isa. 1:25** (1025); **Dan. 3:17-18** (1301); **Eze. 9:6** (1220); **Acts 14:22** (1618); **2 Tim. 3:12** (1749); **1 Pet. 4:17** (1785); **Rev. 7:13-14** (1808)

### E. Details about God's people passing through Jacob's time of trouble

1. God's people are now in the land of the enemy. Satan is referred to as the "prince of this world": **Jn. 12:31** (1572); **14:30** (1577); **16:11** (1579)
2. By express command of God, God's people are to leave spiritual Babylon as they journey to the promised land of heaven: **Rev. 18:4** (1819); **2 Cor. 6:17-18** (1697)
3. It will be at the very end of time when God's people are on the borders of "the land of promise" that they will encounter the death decree and great opposition: **Dan. 12:1** (1319); **Rev. 13:15** (1814)
4. Spiritual brothers in Christ will oppose the true followers of God, and push for their eradication: **Jn. 16:2** (1578); **Dan. 3:12** (1300); **6:4-13** (1307)
5. Jacob did all he could to try to appease his brother, so God's people should do all they can to place themselves in a correct light with others at the end of time: **Gen. 32:3-20** (52); **33:8-11** (54)
6. God's people will cling to His word and promises that He will deliver them: **Isa. 41:17-18** (1073); **Psm. 9:9-10** (864); **Dan. 12:1** (1319) **Isa. 26:20** (1053); **33:16** (1062); **Psm. 27:1-5** (876); **91** (926); **Rev. 12:17** (1813); **14:12** (1815)
7. God's people will be "spiritual Israelites" or "over-comers": **Gal. 3:7, 29** (1708); **Rom. 9:6-8** (1658); **Rev. 12:11** (1813); **21:12** (1824); **22:14** (1825)

### F. Appeal – What we can do now to prepare?

1. Begin to Learn God's promises now so you can find strength to endure the testing time to come because it will come on all the world (**Mt. 25; Lk. 21:34-35**).
2. Begin to wrestle with God now so you too can gain the victory over sin in your life and become an overcomer.

### Review

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. God's people will have to trust the Bible and follow exactly what it says at the end of time. | T | F |
| 2. It will be non believing pagans that persecute God's people at the end of time.               | T | F |
| 3. Like Jacob, we should do all we can to set ourselves in the right light with others.          | T | F |
| 4. God will fight for His people in the end of time and deliver them.                            | T | F |
| 5. God's people will be spiritual Israelites or over-comers.                                     | T | F |