

## Reading Genesis 28-31: three interpretive foci

<b>THE IMMEDIATE PLOT:</b>	Jacob escaping from his angry brother in search of a woman in the “old country”
<b>“TWO NATIONS ARE IN YOUR WOMB”:</b>	Jacob—who will become “Israel” on the return from “exile” in Mesopotamia—as father of twelve, eponymous founders of “the twelve tribes of Israel.”
<b>POST-EXILE:</b>	Jacob naming “Bethel” as a God-dwelling place against Josiah’s pre-exilic “reform” (2 Kings 23); naming the post-exilic community “Israel” rather than “Judah”/“Yehud” (the Persian name for the post-exilic province under Persian control)