

Wordplays and other words in Genesis 32-33 that recall other characters/contexts

Jacob went on his way and the **angels of God** met him (32.1 as 28.12, only place elsewhere in the Hebrew Scriptures for “angels of God”)

So he called that place **Mahanaim**. (32.2) echoing 2 Samuel 2.8, Abner taking Saul’s son Ishbaal to Mahanaim to be king

Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, **instructing them** (32.3-4a) echoing Genesis 24.2-4, Abraham’s instructions to his servant on the way to Laban

Jacob, **I have lived with Laban as an alien** (32.4, echoing Genesis 19.9, Lot in Sodom)

"We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and **four hundred men** are with him." (32.6) echoing 1 Samuel 25.13, David going after Nabal [itself a play on “Laban”]

I am too small (32.9) *qatan*, echoing Genesis 27.15, 42, the “smaller” and “larger” sons of Rebekah

with only my staff **I crossed** (32.10) `vr = “Hebrew, 10x in Gen 32-33

So [Jacob] **spent** [*vallalen*, root, *lvn* = Laban) that night there (32.13)

two hundred **ewes** (*rechelim* = “Rachels”) and twenty rams (32.14)

crossed the ford of the **Jabbok**. (32.22, play on “Jacob”)

and a man **wrestled** (`vq, play on both “Jabbok” and “Jacob”) with him until daybreak (32.24)

he struck him on the **yarekh** (32.25): echoing Genesis 24.2, 9, Abraham putting his hand on his servant’s *yerekh*

you have striven (*saritha* = “Sarah”) with God and with humans (32.28)

and **have prevailed** (32.28) *ykhl*, echoing 30.8, Rachel “prevailing” over Leah in wrestling (different word for “wrestling”)

"For I have **seen God face to face**, and yet my life is preserved." (32.30) echoing Exodus 33.11, Moses seeing God “face to face”

The **sun rose** upon him as he passed **Penuel** (32.31): echoing 28.11, the sun set on Jacob; also echoing 1 Kings 12.25, Penuel built by Jeroboam, who led the rebellion against Rehoboam and Jerusalem after Solomon’s death (paired with Bethel from Genesis 28.19 as a city opposed to Jerusalem’s hegemonic control of worship of YHWH)

He himself went on ahead of them, **bowing** himself to the ground seven times (33.3): echoing 27.29, Isaac’s blessing to Jacob-as-Esau in reverse

But Esau ran to meet him, and **embraced him** (33.4) echoing 29.13, Laban embracing Jacob

and **kissed** him (33.4) echoing 27.26, Isaac’s call to Jacob-as-Esau to kiss him

and they **wept** (33.4) echoing 27.38, Esau weeping at the loss of the blessing

But Esau said, "I have **enough...**" (33.9) echoing 25.23, *rav* as “elder”

Please accept my **gift** (*berakah*, the “blessing” stolen earlier) that is brought to you (33.11)

"My lord knows that the children are **frail**" (33.13) *rakim*, echoing 29.17, Leah’s eyes

And from the **sons of Hamor, Shechem's father** (33.19) echoing Judges 9.28, confrontation in Shechem with the sons of Hamor