

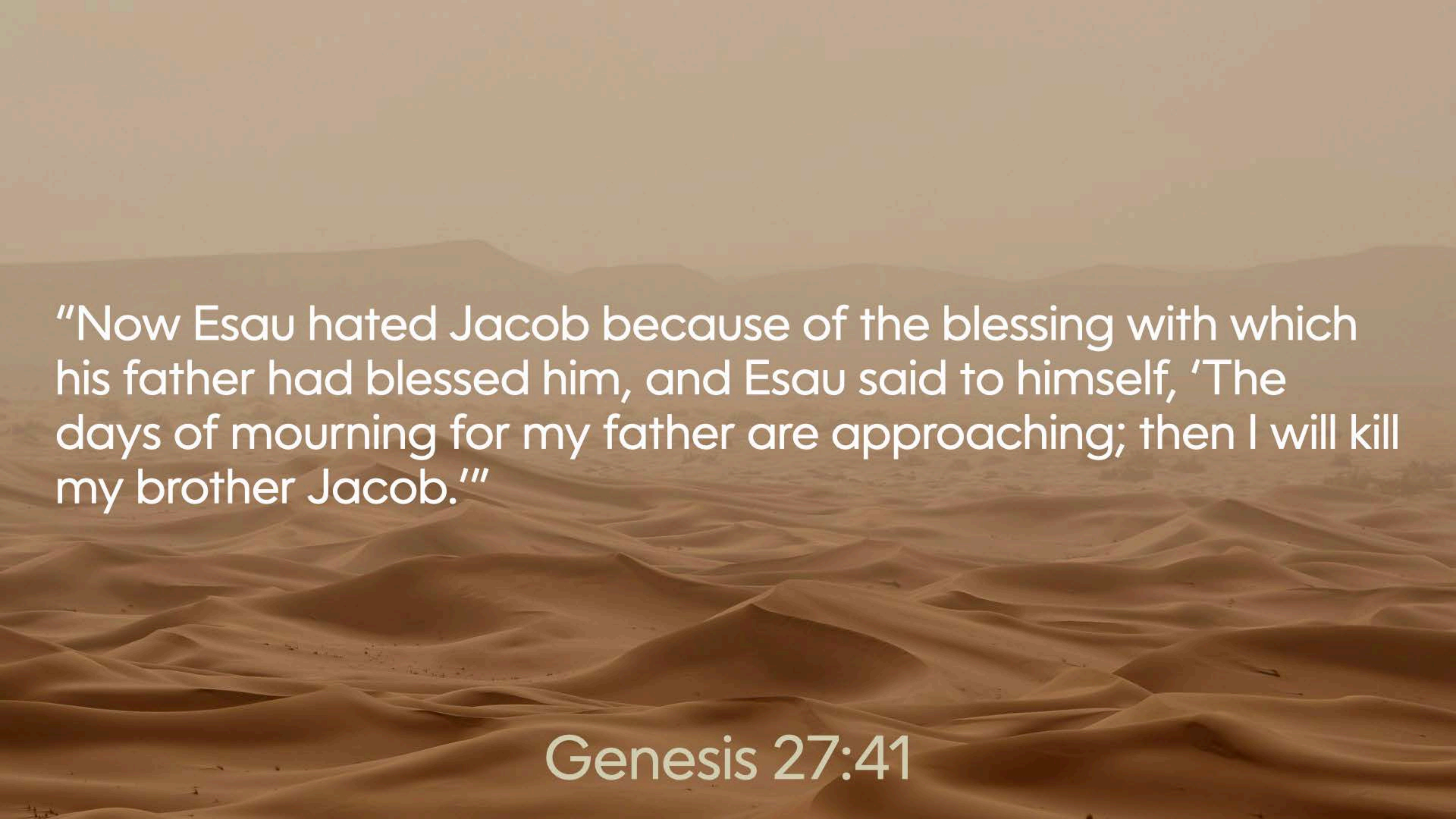


# genesis

STORIES OF  
FAITHFULNESS

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by rolling sand dunes, their ridges and valleys creating a rhythmic pattern of light and shadow. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color. In the distance, a range of low, rounded hills or mountains stretches across the horizon, their forms softened by a thick layer of haze or mist. The sky is a pale, uniform orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is serene and expansive.

# Jacob Runs



"Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, 'The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.'"

Genesis 27:41

“And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.’ ...

Genesis 28:13-22

...And he was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'...Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, 'so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.'"

Genesis 28:13-22

"As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, and Laban said to him, 'Surely you are my bone and my flesh!' And he stayed with him a month. Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance...

Genesis 29:13-20

...Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her."

Genesis 29:13-20

"As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, 'Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you.' But Laban said to him, 'If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the Lord has blessed me because of you. Name your wages, and I will give it.'"

Genesis 30:25-28

"So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods. And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead."

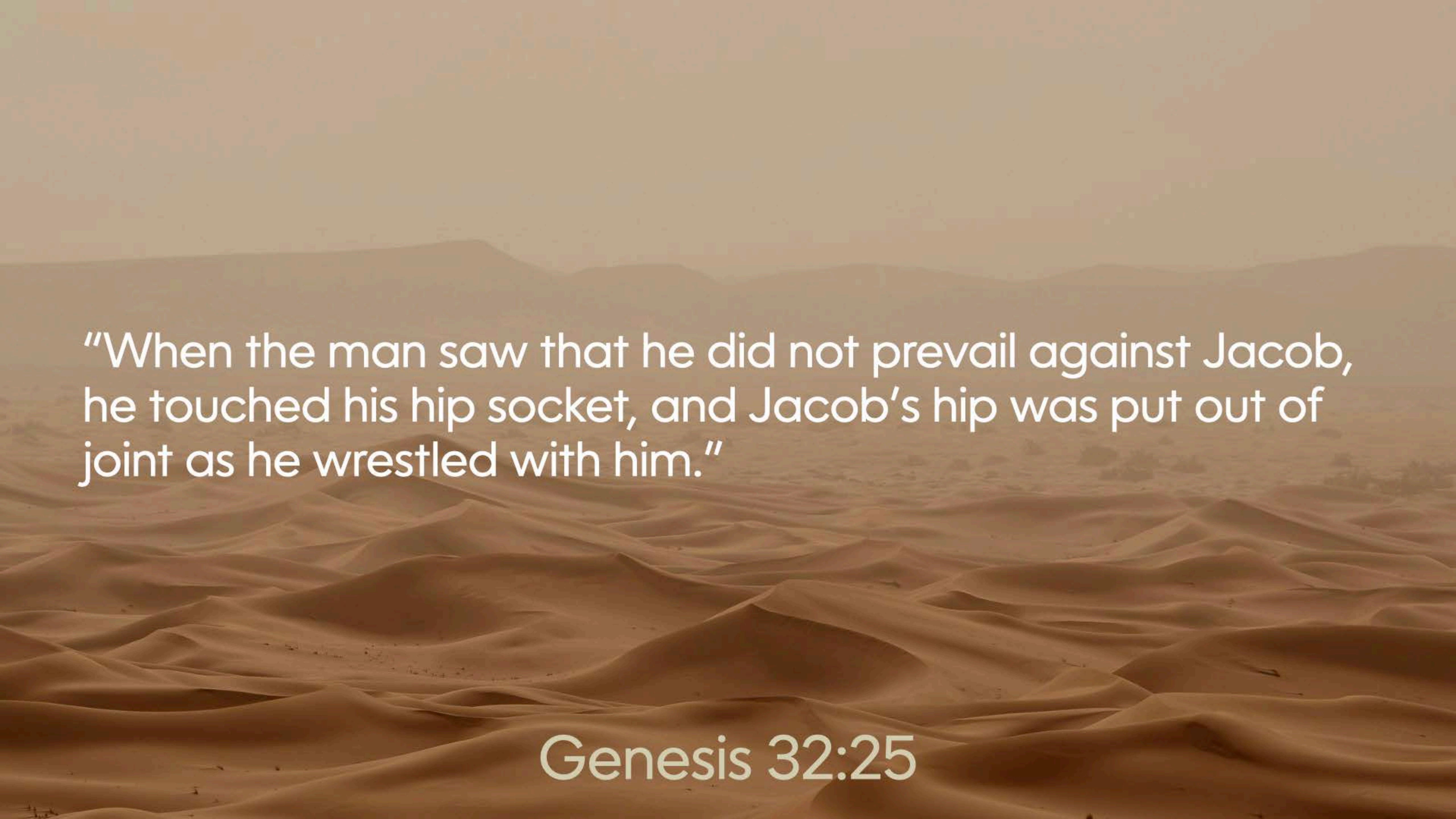
Genesis 31:17-21

"And Jacob said, 'O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,' I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

Genesis 32:9-12

# Jacob Wrestles

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground and middle ground are filled with rolling, golden-brown sand dunes, their ridges and valleys creating a rhythmic pattern. The dunes recede into the distance, where they meet a range of low, hazy mountains. The sky is a uniform, pale orange, suggesting a hazy or overcast day. The overall color palette is monochromatic, dominated by shades of brown and orange. The text 'Jacob Wrestles' is centered in the middle of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

A vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a hazy, orange-tinted sky. The dunes are in the foreground, and the sky is a uniform, muted orange color. The overall scene is serene and desolate.

“When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.”

Genesis 32:25

“‘What is your name?’ And he said, ‘Jacob.’ Then he said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.’ Then Jacob asked him, ‘Please tell me your name.’ But he said, ‘Why is it that you ask my name?’ And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, ‘For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.’ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

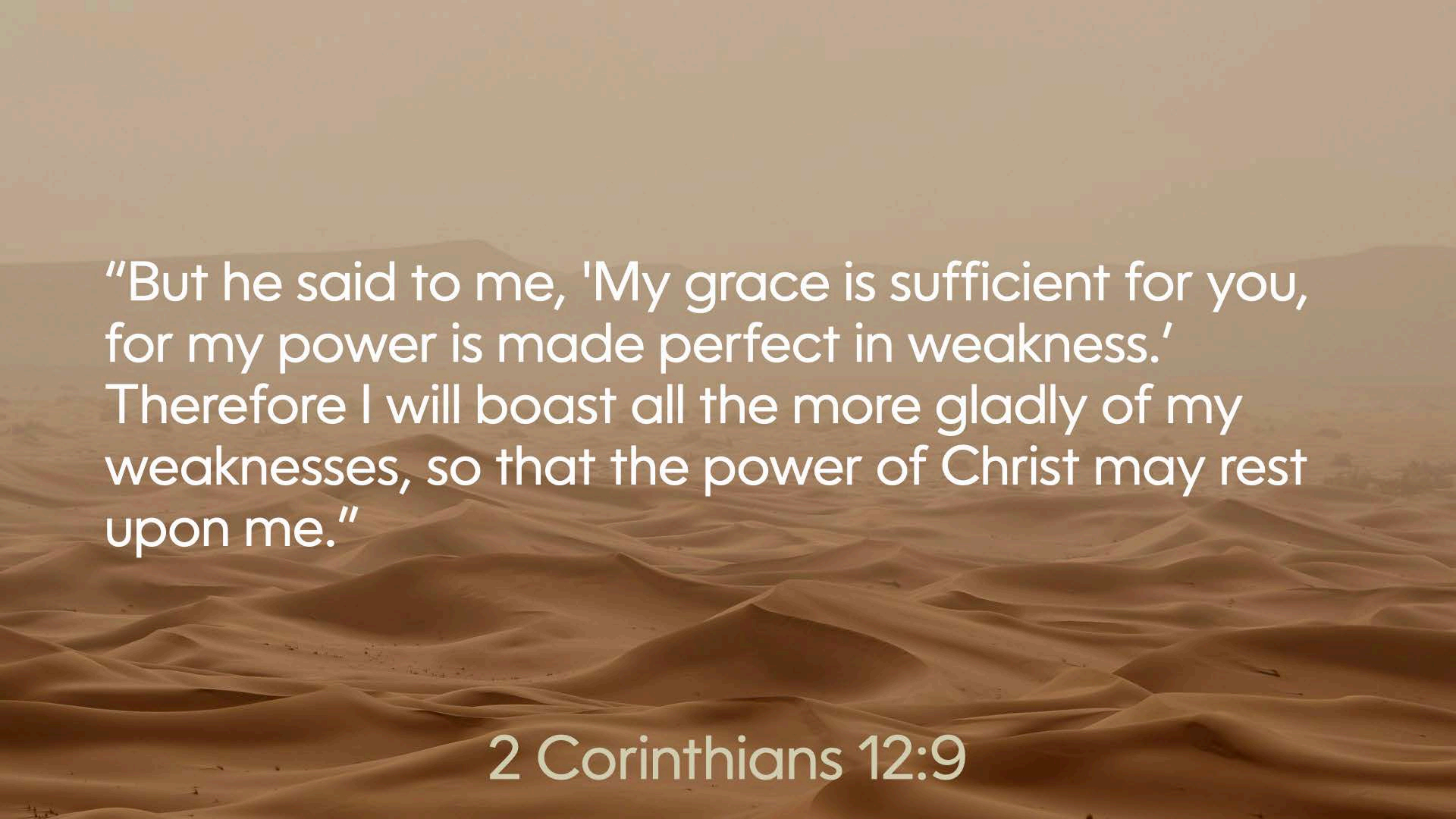
Genesis 32:27-31

# Jacob Returns

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by rolling sand dunes, their ridges and valleys creating a rhythmic pattern of light and shadow. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color. In the distance, a range of low, rounded hills or mountains stretches across the horizon, appearing soft and hazy. The sky is a pale, uniform orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is serene and expansive. The text "Jacob Returns" is centered in the middle of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

*“Jacob had hold of God; he wanted a blessing, an assurance of divine favour and protection in this crisis, but he could not get what he sought. Instead he grew ever more conscious of his own state—utterly helpless and, without God, utterly hopeless. He felt the full bitterness of his unscrupulous, cynical ways, now coming to roost. He had been self-reliant, believing himself to be more than a match for anything that might come, but now he felt his complete inability to handle things, and knew with blinding, blazing certainty that never again dare he trust himself to look after himself and to carve out his destiny.”*

J.I. Packer



“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’  
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground and middle ground are filled with rolling sand dunes, their ridges and valleys creating a rhythmic pattern of light and shadow. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color. In the distance, a range of low, rounded hills or mountains stretches across the horizon, their forms softened by a thick, hazy atmosphere. The sky is a uniform, pale orange, suggesting either dawn or dusk. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

**In Christ we are  
made complete.**



# Next Steps:

- I will pursue an authentic relationship with God.
- I will put my trust in God instead of being self-reliant.
- I will practice honest prayer about the things I am wrestling with instead of dealing with it on my own.