

On the Corner Fringe: Jacob Wrestles an Angel? December 1, 2017

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at: <https://cornerfringe.com/media/w5528vd/otcf-jacob-wrestles-an-angel>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document be printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

Jacob Wrestles with Yeshua: The Identity of the Angel

In this presentation from **Corner Fringe Ministries**, **Pastor Daniel Joseph** analyzes the biblical account of **Jacob wrestling a mysterious figure** in Genesis 32. While traditional Jewish interpretations often view this being as a literal angel or a metaphorical struggle, Daniel argues that the figure is actually a **pre-incarnate appearance of Yeshua (Jesus)**. He supports this claim by highlighting that Jacob refers to the encounter as seeing **Elohim face-to-face**, a feat traditionally impossible with God the Father. Furthermore, he connects the blessing Jacob received to the **divine authority to redeem from evil** and forgive sins, powers reserved solely for God. Ultimately, the message serves to reinforce the theological position that **Yeshua is deity** by identifying Him as the "Man" who contended with the patriarch.



[Introduction]

Insightful—Challenging—Cutting Edge—
Biblical

[Daniel Joseph]

Shalom everyone. This is Daniel Joseph. Welcome to *On the Fringe*. Today I'm really excited because I get to talk about one of my favorite passages in all of the Torah, and it's

found in this week's Torah portion. It's in Genesis 32, that famous moment when the great patriarch *Yaakov* (Jacob) wrestles with the angel.

Now, this passage is hotly debated. It's a point of contention, actually, between Orthodox Jews, the traditional Orthodox position, and Messianics and even, by extension, Christians alike who look at this passage and see Yeshua. They see that the person Jacob was actually wrestling with was none other than Yeshua Himself, whereas the Orthodox, in a traditional Orthodox position, would argue that this is absolutely not the case. This is not a *Mashiach*. This is not the pre-ordained Messiah. This is simply an

angel, and I've actually had interesting discussions where some would go as far as to say that this is the whole angel bit; it's all metaphorical. Actually, Jacob's wrestling with himself is a really interesting perspective on this particular passage.

Today, I want to look at this passage because I wanted to dispel any doubt whatsoever regarding what this passage is actually talking about. There is no question that this is a Yeshua moment. It is so powerful and precious in light of knowing who Yeshua is.

But with that said, I want to take you to Genesis 32:24, and this is what we read: **"Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him..."** Look at it in Hebrew, and this is exactly what it says, and this is a critical piece to putting this all together, to understanding exactly who *Yaakov* is wrestling with. It is explicit that he is wrestling here with a Man, *"Ish"* (יִשׁ), in Hebrew, okay? And we know that when Yeshua came, He came as what? As an *Ish*; He came as a Man. He refers to Himself often as a Man, whether the Son of Man or a Man, like we find in the Gospel of John.

Genesis 32:24-26—**...a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. ²⁵ Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. ²⁶ And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, and this is Jacob speaking, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"**

Now, this is really interesting because, Jacob, we're given preemptive insight that Jacob knows who he's wrestling with. You think about it: the fact that he is seeking a blessing, what we're going to find, what Jacob means by this, and that this blessing is much deeper than is often understood. But seeing this fact and knowing that Jacob is not going to let Him go because he is seeking to be blessed by this one. He knows this person has the authority to do something great for him, okay?

Going on to Genesis 32:27-30—**So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." ²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with Elohim, with God and with men, and have prevailed." With God and with men—that is so profound. ²⁹ Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. Now remember, he said he's not going to let Him go unless he gets this special blessing. Well, now we find Him there on the spot; He blesses him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen Elohim; he has seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."**

Now here's the thing about this little interaction: we know that this is not simply an angel. Jacob, though, meeting an angel is beyond awesome and humbling and strikes fear into the heart—there's no question about that. We know this just from all the examples we have within scripture. But this is different. This whole interchange is different because Jacob has seen Elohim face-to-face, and his life is preserved.

One thing that we know in Scripture, we know this from Exodus 24; we know this from going further on in Exodus: that no one can see God and live. No one can see Him and live. And the fact that Jacob adds this little statement that my life is preserved. He's seen God face-to-face and has been preserved, showing that this is not simply an angel. This one with whom he is wrestling is far more than an angel, to the point that he categorizes it into God Land, if you will, into Elohim Land, because his life has been

completely preserved. Who was he wrestling with? There isn't a question; he was wrestling with none other than Yeshua.

Now, let me build on this, because it is just a small piece of the puzzle. As we continue, we jump ahead to Genesis 35:9—**Then God appeared to Jacob again**; okay, this is the same Elohim that we just read about **when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him.** ¹⁰ **And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name."** So He called his name Israel. ¹¹ **Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty...**

Okay, this same Elohim that he is wrestling with—to take out any guesswork here—identifies Himself as El Shaddai, God Almighty, a term reserved exclusively for God Himself. This is who Jacob wrestled with. So again, I ask you, who did Jacob wrestle with? It is none other than the one who is *echad* with His Father, the one who is to be worshipped, the one who is to be prayed to, and the one who is to be exalted and lifted up. This is Yeshua, very, very powerful.

Let me take it one step further. And I want to take you to Genesis 48. We're coming to the point where Jacob is about to die, and he's speaking to Yosef, okay? And he's blessing; he's saying this beautiful blessing; he's blessing Joseph. And we read in Genesis 48:15-16—**And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, Elohim, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day,"** ¹⁶ **the Angel**, so he uses this term, "the Angel," interchangeably with "Elohim," the Angel **who has redeemed me from all evil...**

Now we go back to that point in Genesis 32:26—**"I will not let You go unless You bless me!"** This Angel that he is wrestling with. And now we learn as we come into Genesis 48, that what Jacob shows in that blessing and what he was really looking for is to be redeemed from all evil, to be totally delivered, and to be forgiven. And when we go to the New Testament, you think about passages like Matthew 9, and you think about passages like Luke 5:20, where Yeshua says, **"Man, your sins are forgiven you."** And the crowd's saying in Luke 5:21—**"Who can forgive sins but God alone?"** Indeed, who can forgive sins but God alone?

You see, we're given this nature and this debate that is raging right now, even within Messianic Judaism and in Hebrew roots, that Jesus, Yeshua, is not Elohim; He is not God; therefore, He's not to be prayed to; He's not to be worshipped. The more you actually study the Tanakh, the more that heretical ideology is torn down. It is so powerful, and these things are left here for us so that when we see Yeshua saying the things that He said in the New Testament, which are so profound, and in doing the things that He did, we see these passages with the forefathers, these interactions with Abraham, where we see *Yod, Hey, Vav, Hey (YHWH)* actually talk to Abraham, which we know would be Yeshua.

When we see this interchange with Jacob, when we see in Judges, chapter 13, what happened to Manoah and his wife, the parents of Samson, and who they saw, he thought they were going to die because they had seen God, and this angel went up within the sacrifice itself, and we could go on and on and on. The point being is the more you investigate this and just put it to the test, the more you realize Yeshua is God, being the Son of God, being *echad* with His Father.

Well, this is all for this week. I hope you have a blessed time, and I hope to see you next week. Blessings.

Who Did Jacob Wrestle?

The Case for Yeshua as Elohim

Evidence of a Divine Encounter



Wrestling with the "Ish" (Man)

Jacob wrestled with a literal man, foreshadowing Yeshua's arrival as the Son of Man.



The Miracle of Peniel

Jacob saw God face-to-face and survived, an impossibility unless encountering God through Yeshua.



Identification as El Shaddai

The same being later identifies Himself to Jacob as God Almighty, a title for God alone.



The Power of Redemption



The Angel vs. The Redeemer

Jacob interchangeably identifies his wrestler as both "The Angel" and the God who redeemed him.



Authority to Forgive Sins

Jacob sought a blessing of redemption from evil, a power reserved exclusively for God.



Divine Oneness (Echad)

The encounter proves Yeshua is one with the Father and worthy of worship and prayer.