

# Wrestling with God

Genesis 32:1-33

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

"I want to try and get to heaven if possible. I'm hearing I'm not doing well. I am really at the bottom of the totem pole. But if I can get to heaven, this will be one of the reasons."

President Trump



“I’ve never raped anybody. I’ve never mugged anybody. I’m never aggressive to people in the street. I never go on stage drunk and I’m polite to my mother – so, if there’s a queue getting into heaven, I’ll be in the “in” queue I think.”



Noel Gallagher

# 1. The continuing problem of self-reliance (v1-21)

## Genesis 32v11

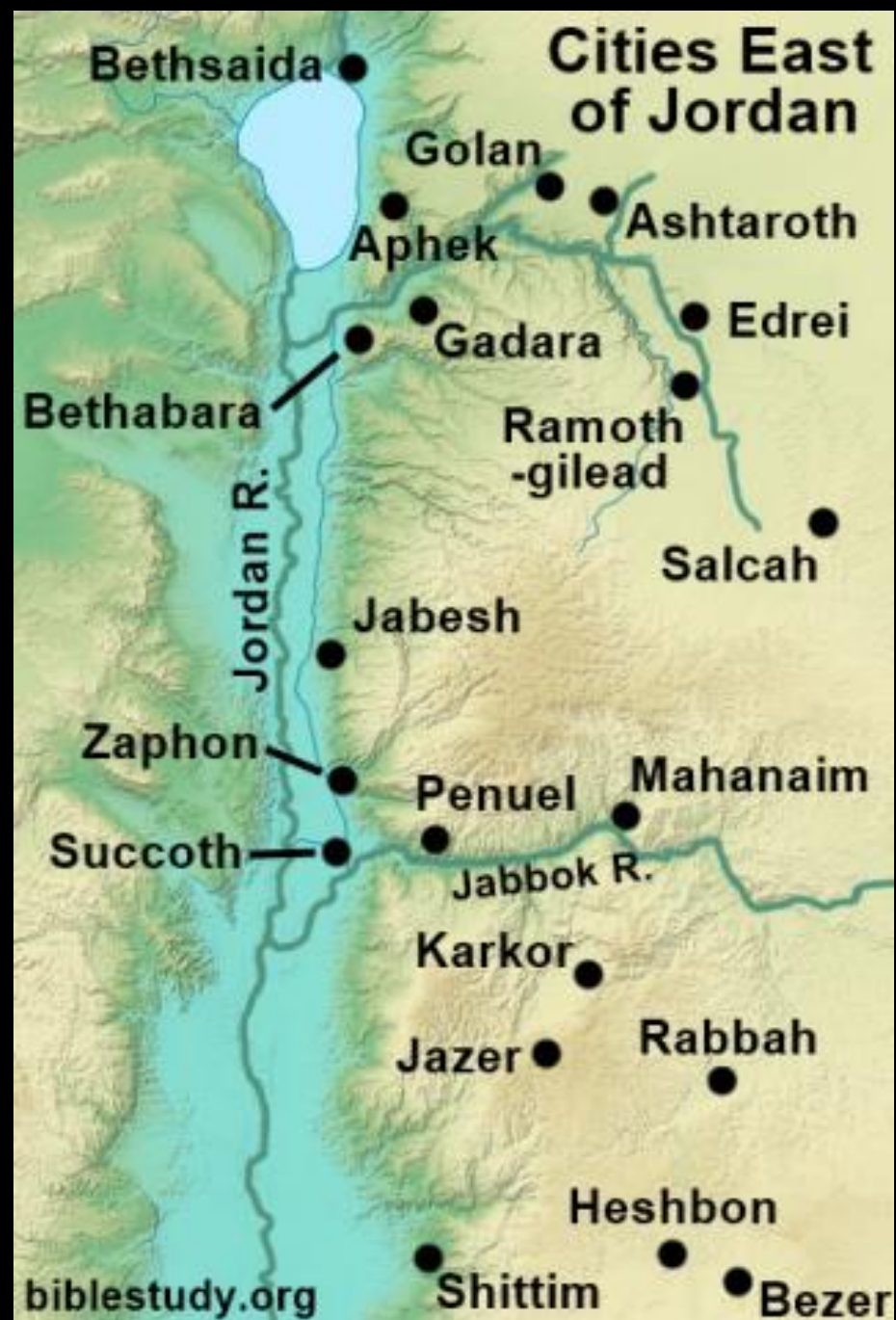
Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children.

“There is a certain degree of dependence when Jacob prays to God, yet he employs his own ways and means to protect himself from Esau. It is, once again, only a partial reliance – in whom does Jacob trust?”



John Currid

## 2. The great blessing of God-reliance (v22-32)







## Genesis 32v28

Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

## 2. The great blessing of God-reliance (v22-32)

- God accommodates himself to us
- Sometimes God graciously wounds us so that we might depend on him
- We are sometimes left with a permanent reminder of our weakness