

Sunday, November 21, 2021
"The Gospel Lives of Isaac & Jacob"
Summary of Close Encounters
Genesis 33
Wayne Shelton

Genesis 33 records the conclusion of the Jacob-Esau cycle, a story that began with Jacob's flight and now ends with his return. Since the occasion for the flight was Jacob's deception (Gen 27), before there can be any end to the cycle, there must be a reconciliation. Twenty years before, when Jacob had cheated his twin brother out of their father's blessing, Esau had vowed to kill Jacob, and Jacob had lived under the threat of that vow for two decades. He was returning in the general direction of Esau's territory because he had nowhere else to go. But he feared Esau and actually quaked in terror the night before their meeting. The morning of the dreaded meeting dawned. But God, who had worked in Jacob's life the night before, had obviously gone before Jacob and prepared the heart of Esau for a moving reconciliation. This meeting should be an encouragement for any who have suffered strained relations with someone else. The rift may be deep. But as Boice exhorts us, 'the God who is at work in your heart can also work in him or her – in fact, can be expected to do so. Our duty is to see that our hearts are right.'

