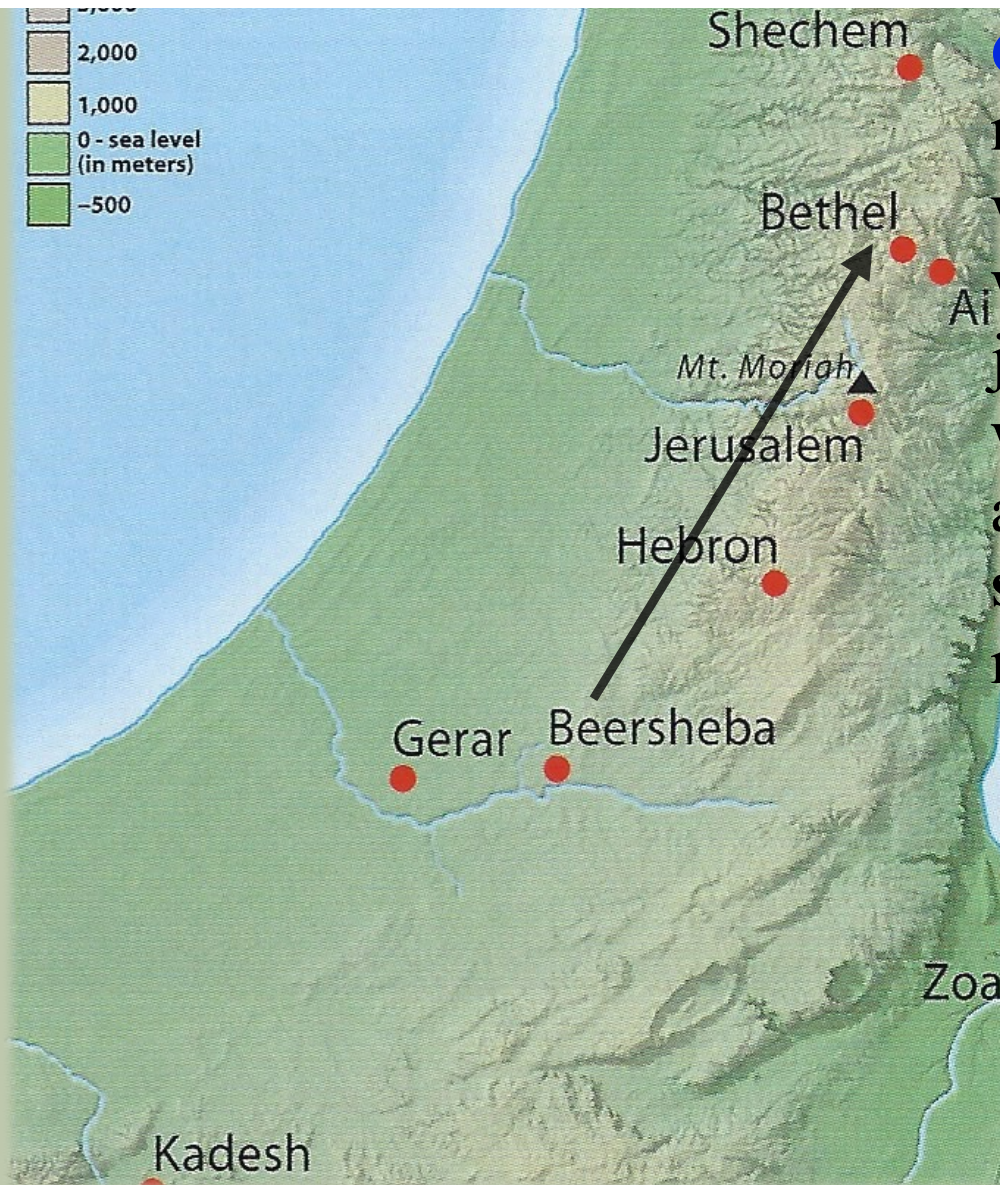




Genesis 32-33

Jacob Meets Esau



Gen. 28:20-22 Jacob made a vow, “**If** God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking **and** will give me food to eat and clothes to wear **so that** I return safely to my father’s house,

then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house (*Beth-El*), and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

A view of Earth from space, showing the blue and white clouds of the planet against the blackness of space. The Moon is visible in the upper left quadrant, appearing as a dark, oval shape. A bright star or planet is visible in the lower left corner, creating a lens flare effect.

Genesis 32-33

Jacob Meets Esau

What is the very heart of this narrative?

Why does it represent Jacob's character?

Examine carefully the changes in Jacob and Esau:

What surprises you most?

Mahanaim “Two Camps”

Angels As Messengers

Gen. 28:12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and **the angels of God were ascending and descending on it ...**

Gen. 28:13 There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying

Angels As Guards

Gen. 32:1 Jacob also went on his way, and **the angels of God met him**

Gen. 32:2 When Jacob saw them, he said, “**This is the camp of God!**” So he named that place **Mahanaim** (*Two Camps*)



Gen. 32:7 Jacob was **frightened and worried**

Gen. 32:9-12 **Jacob prayed**, “God of my grandfather Abraham and God of my father Isaac, hear me! You told me, LORD, to go back to my land and to my relatives, and you would make everything go well for me. **I am not worth all the kindness and faithfulness that you have shown me**, your servant. I crossed the Jordan with nothing but a walking stick, and now I have come back with these two groups.

Save me, I pray, from my brother Esau. **I am afraid**—afraid that he is coming to attack us and destroy us all, even the women and children.


Gen. 32:12 **Remember** that you promised to make everything go well for me and to give me more descendants than anyone could count, as many as

Gen. 31 the grains of sand along the seashore (28:12-13 *But Now? No conditions*) thought you would take your daughters away from me by force.

Gen. 32:19-20 “This is what you must say to Esau when you meet him. You must say, ‘Yes, **your servant Jacob** is right behind us.’”

Jacob was thinking, “**I will win him over** with the gifts, and when I meet him, **perhaps he will forgive me.**”

• Kadesh Barnea



Gen. 32:28 The man said, “Your name will no longer be **Jacob**. You have struggled with God and with men, and you have won; so your name will be Israel” (*God Wins!*)

Gen. 32:30 Jacob said, “**I have seen** God face-to-face, and I am still alive”; so he named the place **Peniel**

Gen. 16:13-14 ... she named the LORD who spoke to her,
“You are a God who **sees**” ...
“Have I remained alive after **seeing Him?**”
... she named the well Beer-lahai-roi ...
(*The Well-of the Living One-Sees Me ... And I Lived!!*)

The Brothers Meet

Gen. 33:3 He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

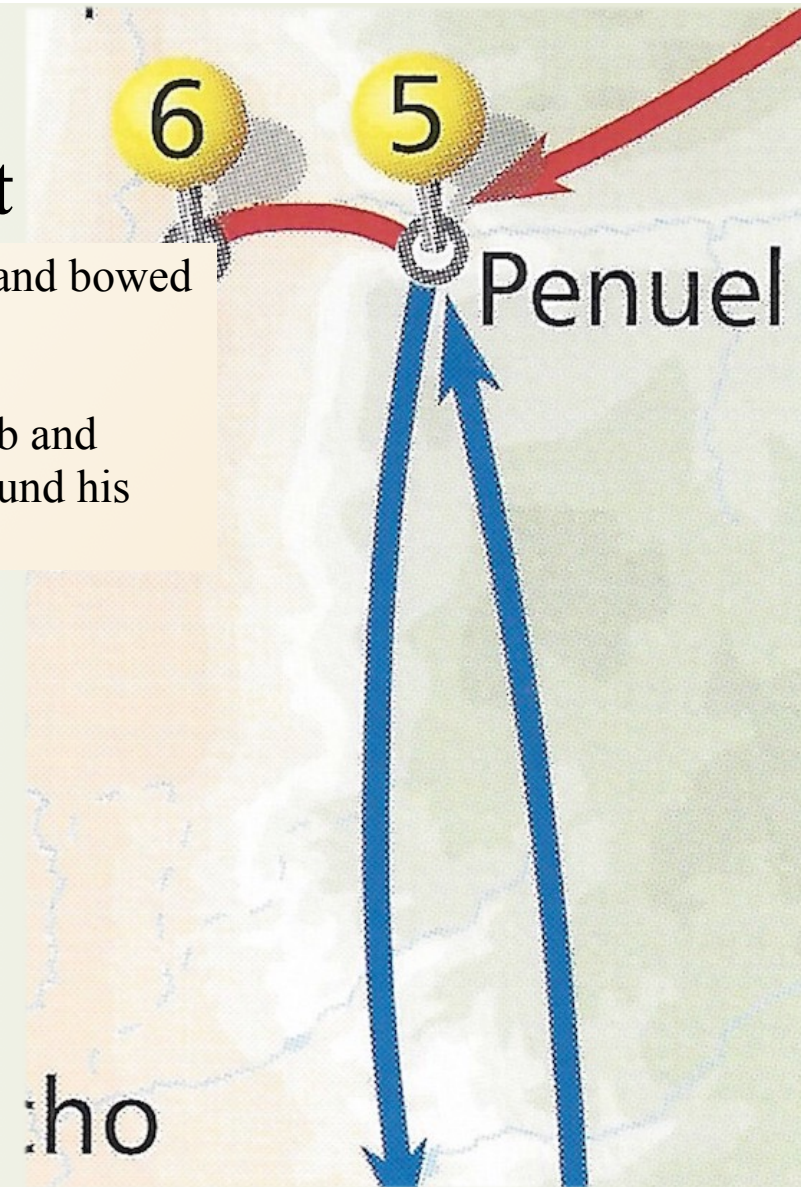
Gen. 33:4 But **Esau ran** to meet Jacob and **embraced** him; he threw his arms around his neck and **kissed** him. **And they wept**

Gen. 33:10 “No, please!” said Jacob. “If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me.

For to see your face is like seeing the face of God ...

“... To love another person is to see the Face of God ...”

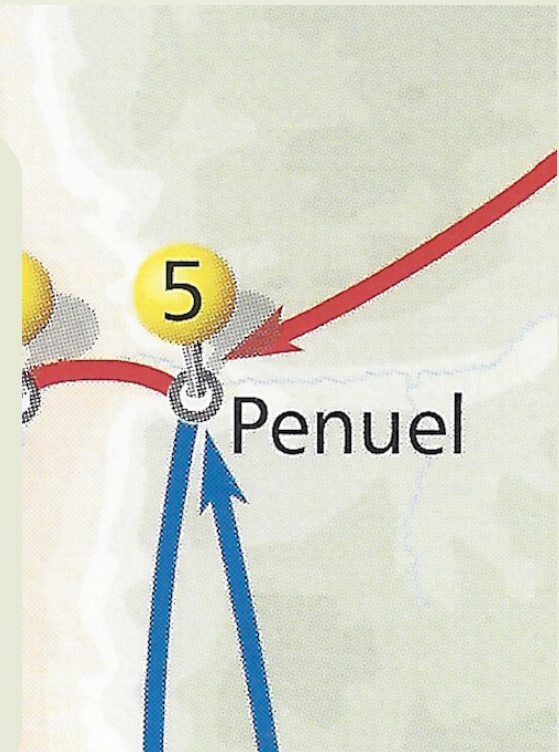
Victor Hugo, *Le Miserables*

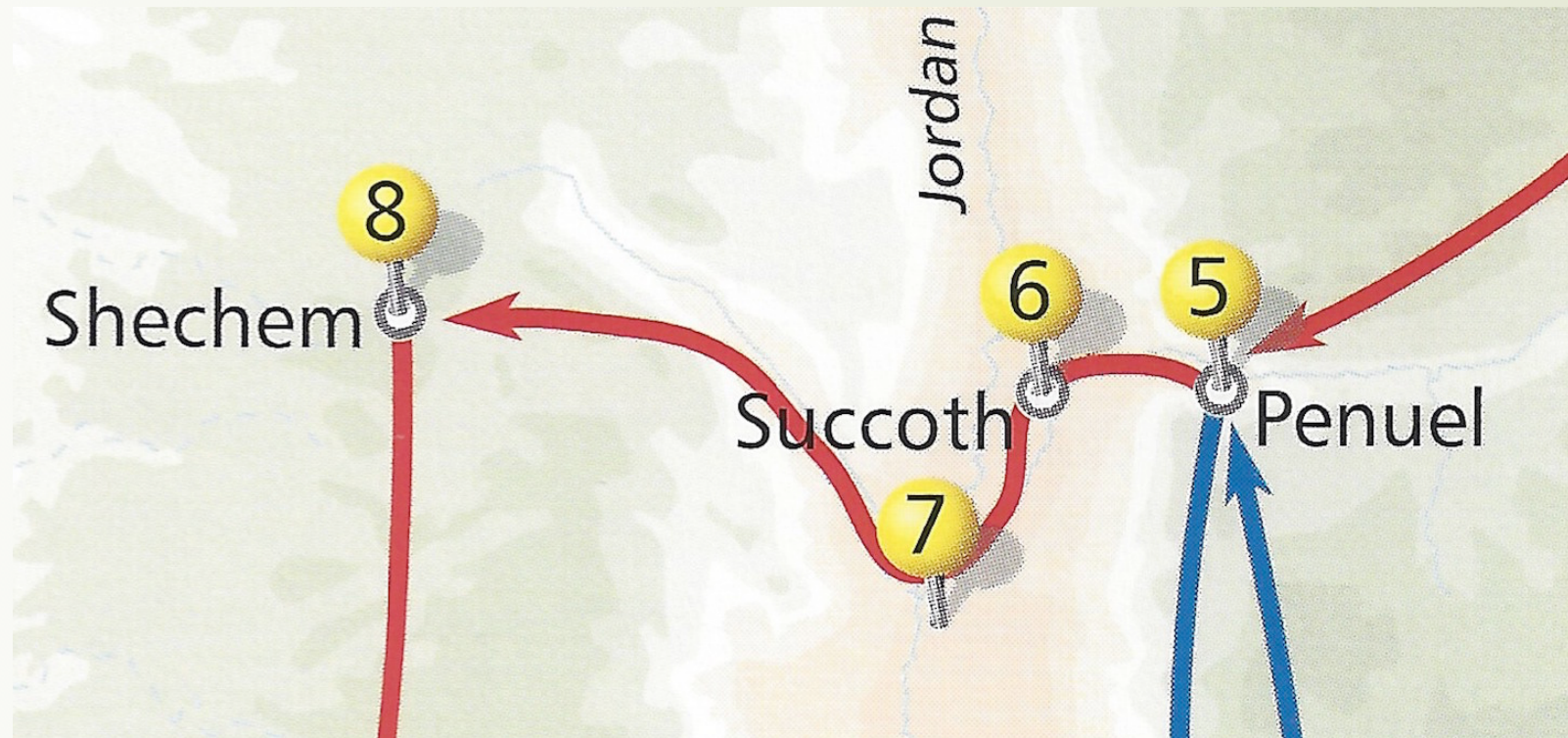


Gen. 33:13 Jacob said, “My lord knows that the children are tender and that I must care for the ewes and cows that are nursing their young. If they are driven hard just one day, all the animals will die.

Gen. 33:14 So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the droves before me and that of the children, **until I come to my lord in Seir.**”

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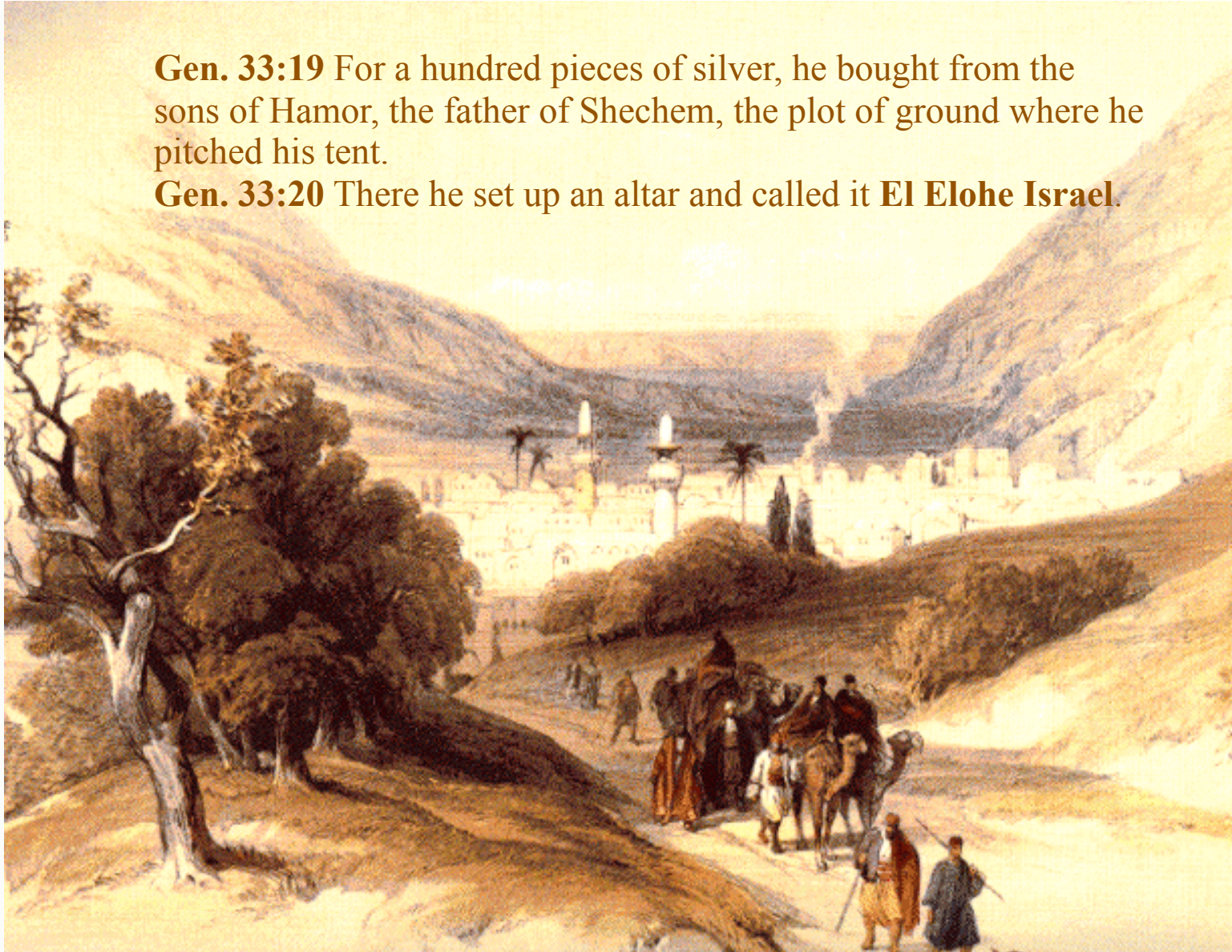


Gen. 33:16 So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir.

Gen. 33:17 Jacob, **however**, went to Succoth (*Shelters*), where he built a place for himself and **made shelters** for his livestock.

Gen. 33:19 For a hundred pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent.

Gen. 33:20 There he set up an altar and called it **El Elohe Israel**.



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Genesis 34-36

Jacob Must Move!

In the Narrative:

How is Beth-El significant?

How do you see Jacob's character in his sons?