

*Questions  
You Have  
Asked*

**How Could Jacob See God Face To Face When  
The Bible Says That No One Has Seen God?**

**John 1:18**

**No man hath seen God at any time, the only  
begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the  
Father, he hath declared him.**

# **I. What Was The Setting Of Jacob's Encounter With God?**

- A. Left Laban with his family**
- B. Met the angels of God (32:1-2)**
- C. Esau comes to meet him (32:3-6)**
- D. Jacob divides his caravan into multiple parts (32:7-8)**
- E. Jacob prays to God for deliverance from Esau (32:9-12)**
- F. Jacob sends a gift to Esau (32:13-20)**
- G. Jacob sends his family ahead over the ford Jabbok (32:21-23)**

## **II. What Happened To Jacob And What Did He Say?**

### **Genesis 32:24-30**

**24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.**

**25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.**

**26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.**

**27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.**

## **II. What Happened To Jacob And What Did He Say?**

**Genesis 32:24-30 - continued**

**28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.**

**29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.**

**30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.**

### **III. God Uses Forms That Can Be Seen**

#### **A. The burning bush**

**Exodus 3:2**

**And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.**

#### **B. The pillar of fire/smoke**

**Exodus 13:21**

**And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:**

## **IV. Did Moses See God Or His Presence?**

### **Exodus 33:8-23**

**8 And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.**

**9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses.**

**10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.**

## **IV. Did Moses See God Or His Presence?**

**Exodus 33:8-23 - continued**

**11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.**

**12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.**

**13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.**



## IV. Did Moses See God Or His Presence?

**Exodus 33:8-23 - continued**

**14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.**

**15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.**

**16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.**

**17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.**

## **IV. Did Moses See God Or His Presence?**

**Exodus 33:8-23 - continued**

**18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.**

**19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.**

**20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.**

**21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:**

## **IV. Did Moses See God Or His Presence?**

**Exodus 33:8-23 - continued**

**22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:**

**23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.**

## **V. Did Israel See God Or His Presence?**

**Deuteronomy 5:4**

**The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,**

**Pānîm = face or presence/form**

## **VI. Who Did Jacob Really See?**

**Hosea 12:3-4**

**3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:**

**4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;**

## **VII. All Those Who Saw Christ Saw God**

### **John 1:14**

**And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

### **John 14:9**

**Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?**

## **VIII. Believers Will See God's Face One Day**

**1 Corinthians 13:12**

**For now we see through a glass, darkly; but  
then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I  
know even as also I am known.**

# **O, I Want to See Him**

**As I journey through the land,  
singing as I go,  
Pointing souls to Calvary—to  
the crimson flow,  
Many arrows pierce my soul  
from without, within;  
But my Lord leads me on,  
through Him I must win.**



**Oh, I want to see Him,  
look upon His face,  
There to sing forever  
of His saving grace;  
On the streets of glory  
let me lift my voice,  
Cares all past, home at last,  
ever to rejoice.**

**When in service for my Lord  
dark may be the night,  
But I'll cling more close to Him,  
He will give me light;  
Satan's snares may vex my soul,  
turn my thoughts aside;  
But my Lord goes ahead, leads  
whate'er betide.**

**Oh, I want to see Him,  
look upon His face,  
There to sing forever  
of His saving grace;  
On the streets of glory  
let me lift my voice,  
Cares all past, home at last,  
ever to rejoice.**

**When in valleys low I look  
toward the mountain height,  
And behold my Savior there,  
leading in the fight,  
With a tender hand outstretched  
toward the valley low,  
Guiding me, I can see,  
as I onward go.**

**Oh, I want to see Him,  
look upon His face,  
There to sing forever  
of His saving grace;  
On the streets of glory  
let me lift my voice,  
Cares all past, home at last,  
ever to rejoice.**

**When before me billows rise  
from the mighty deep,  
Then my Lord directs my bark;  
He doth safely keep,  
And He leads me gently on  
through this world below;  
He's a real Friend to me,  
oh, I love Him so.**

**Oh, I want to see Him,  
look upon His face,  
There to sing forever  
of His saving grace;  
On the streets of glory  
let me lift my voice,  
Cares all past, home at last,  
ever to rejoice.**