

## ~ISRAEL 1 (72)

### (Is'ra-el) [Contender or Perseverer With God, or, God Contends]

- The name God gave to Jacob when he was about 97 years old. It was during the night that Jacob crossed the torrent valley of Jabbok on his way to meet his brother Esau that he began struggling with what turned out to be an angel.
- Because of Jacob's perseverance in the struggle, his name was changed to **Israel** as a token of God's blessing. In commemoration of these events, Jacob named the place Peniel or Penuel.
- Later during that night he rose and took his two wives and his two maidservants and his eleven young sons and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. (**Genesis 32:22**)
- So he took them and brought them over the torrent valley, and he brought over what he had. (**Genesis 32:23**)
- Finally Jacob was left by himself. Then a man began to grapple with him until the dawn ascended. (**Genesis 32:24**)
- When he got to see that he had not prevailed over him, then he touched the socket of his thigh joint, and the socket of Jacob's thigh joint got out of place during his grappling with him. (**Genesis 32:25**)
- After that he said; Let me go, for the dawn has ascended. To this he said; I am not going to let you go until you first bless me. (**Genesis 32:26**)
- So he said to him; What is your name? To which he said; Jacob. (**Genesis 32:27**)
- Then he said; Your name will no longer be called Jacob but **Israel**, for you have contended with God and with men so that you at last prevailed. (**Genesis 32:28**)
- Later, at Bethel the change in name was confirmed by God, and from then on to the end of his life Jacob was frequently called **Israel**.
- And God went on to say to him; Your name is Jacob. No longer

- is your name to be called Jacob, but **Israel** will your name become. And he began to call his name Israel. (**Genesis 35:10**)
- And Jacob continued to call the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel. (**Genesis 35:15**)
  - After that Joseph commanded his servants, the physicians, to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed **Israel**. (**Genesis 50:2**)
  - And Abraham came to be father to Isaac. The sons of Isaac were Esau and **Israel**. (**1 Chronicles 1:34**)
  - Many of the more than 2,500 occurrences of the name **Israel**, however, are in reference to Jacob's descendants as a nation.
  - And afterward Moses and Aaron went in and proceeded to say to Pharaoh; This is what Yehowah the God of **Israel** has said; Send my people away that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness. (**Exodus 5:1**)
  - But Pharaoh said; Who is Yehowah, so that I should obey his voice to send **Israel** away? I do not know Yehowah at all and, what is more, I am not going to send Israel away. (**Exodus 5:2**)

**See Also JACOB 1**