

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible. Below it, a planet with a dark, textured surface and a bright horizon line is shown. The background is a dark, starry space. The text "THE BOOK OF GENESIS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "GENESIS" is significantly larger than "THE BOOK OF".

THE BOOK OF  
**GENESIS**

# ***PERSUADED TO PRAY***

## ***GENESIS 32:1-21***

What do you do when you see difficulty ahead?

- Panic, plan, and plot? Or are you persuaded to pray?

As you study Jacob's actions during this crisis, you see the conflicts all of us occasionally experience between:

- Faith and fear
- Trusting God and scheming
- Asking God for help and then acting as though we don't even know God

## ***JACOB REAPING WHAT HE HAD SOWN v. 1-8***

- **First**, we see Jacob's preview and preparation.
- **Second**, we see Jacob actually received divine protection.
- **Third**, we see Jacob carnally plotting.
  - Believers who are walking by faith need not fear the enemy or whatever bad news may come their way.  
**Psalm 112:7**
  - Human wisdom is always a poor substitute for God's wisdom! **James 1:5-8; Prov. 3:5-12**

## ***PRAYING WITH POWER AND PURPOSE v. 9-12***

Jacob's prayer is one of the great prayers recorded in Scripture, and yet it was prayed by a man whose faith was very weak. **Check out the content.**

- 1. Jacob remembered God's Word. v. 9a**
- 2. Jacob was obeying God's commands. v. 9b**
- 3. Jacob was resting in God's care. v. 10**
- 4. Jacob was believing in God's purposes. v. 11**
- 5. Jacob was trusting in God's promises. v. 12**

## ***JACOB'S COMPROMISE v. 13-21***

Here we see the danger of trying to appease men when God wants to deliver us from them.

- Jacob decided to take matters into his own hands rather than wait.
- We get impatient and try to help the Lord govern the universe, don't we?
- God does not need our help and we are never the better for helping Him.

***WE NEED TO LEAVE OUR BIG GOD IN THE EQUATION!***

# ***WE NEED TO PRAY AND THEN TRUST GOD***

One of my personal favorite passages, **Isaiah 40:27-31**, is actually the story of the Jewish people leaving God out of the equation!

- How could that happen in light of **Isaiah 37:33-38**?
- Remember what He has already done for you. Pray, wait, and watch Him slay the Assyrians in your life!
- True faith is based on God's Word. **Rom. 10:17**
- Whatever we do that isn't motivated by faith is sin.  
**Rom. 14:23**

***LET'S BE PERSUADED TO PRAY AND THEN LET GOD WORK!***