

THE CARTER REPORT

PO BOX 1900
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91358 U.S.A.

PO BOX 861
TERRIGAL, NSW 2260 AUSTRALIA

PHONE: 805.532.0038
EMAIL: INFO@CARTERREPORT.ORG

WWW.CARTERREPORT.ORG



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IT'S A NEW YEAR and....

WHY HEAVEN IS FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

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JOHN CARTER TALKS ABOUT GOD'S BLESSED LIMPERS

Jacob is a person many of us relate to. He was sincere but flawed. A bit like me. Maybe you too.

His heart was in the right place most of the time, but he sometimes gave in to the temptation of the present for the advantage of the future. He deceived his brother and father, and swindled Esau out of his birthright of money and position. He subsequently lost his mother and alienated his big brother who had a long memory. No, I haven't done those things. But I have done things I do regret.

Many years passed and now Jacob was going home. Not alone, but with wives, concubines, and children. Plus a host of camels, sheep, and goats. He also had servants. He was a big man in those times. He was a Middle Eastern prince, and it is probably at this point where most of my empathy for Jacob ceases. I don't know what it is like to be Sheik of Palestine.



“THE SUN
ROSE ABOVE
HIM AS HE
PASSED
PENIEL, AND
HE WAS
LIMPING
BECAUSE OF
HIS HIP.”

Genesis 32: 31 NIV

But I feel for this struggler when he, knowing that Esau is coming after him, goes out into the wilderness to pray. Thank God He doesn't give up on us when we do stupid things. He was desperate and frightened. It was there in the wilderness he met God disguised as a warrior. The Bible tells us God put struggling Jacob's hip out of joint. Very, very painful, guaranteed to get his attention. There, all alone in the wilderness, GOD MET HIM TO MAKE HIM, CRUSHED HIM TO GROUND HIM, AND BROKE HIM TO BLESS HIM. Jacob went on his way a new person, but he was limping. Experience has taught me we are all limpers. Some just don't know it.

It was a new day for this old sinner, saved by grace. He was safe, but not entirely sound. He probably limped for the rest of his life. (Here my empathy returns because I limp more than most.)



Although Jacob was limping, he was redeemed and his sins were forgiven. God gave him a new name. Subsequent trials refined and painfully purified Jacob's character, but he was no longer carrying the burdens of the past. The sun that rose upon him at Peniel (God's face) continued to bathe this old saint in a holy light, and every day was a new day. That's what grace does. It is a comfort to feel the face of God which is exactly what Peniel means. No wonder we sing about amazing grace. We are saved in spite of our shortcomings and imperfections. One day our limping will be gone.

Welcome to God's legion of redeemed, blessed limpers. We are all wounded warriors. We may not be perfect, but we do have a perfect Savior. We are not cast out because we limp.



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Jacob's Dream

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the great work of
evangelism.

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today to:

John Carter
The Carter Report
PO Box 1900
Thousand Oaks, CA
91358 USA.

In Australia
write to:

Harold Harker
The Carter Report
PO Box 861
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2260.

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It is now the end of 2021 and the start of a new year. The Good News is that the sun is still shining upon the saved strugglers and blessed limpers as they pass Peniel.

Today for you and me is a new day. We are all Jacobs. We are now walking under the sun of salvation. GOD HAS MET US TO MAKE US. HE HAS CRUSHED US TO CROWN US. HE HAS BROKEN US TO BLESS US. Grace has triumphed. We may be hurting as we limp down the Glory Road, but we nevertheless are redeemed. Our name is no longer Jacob but Israel. We are no longer condemned. We are princes and princesses. Paul says there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

Today is the start of a new day.
Today is the start of a new year.
We shall by grace receive forgiveness for the failures of the past, and by grace embrace God's new day.
"...Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
2 Cor. 5:17 NKJV

To all of God's redeemed, forgiven, and saved "Jacobs" we say, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Many blessings and His love to you,
John Carter and The Carter Report Team

