**Adventist Heritage**

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**To:** Adventist Heritage

**Subject:** The Book and the Bible for You
FEVERUARY 6

JACOB BECOMES ISRAEL

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.

Genesis 32:28

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uddenly a strong hand was laid upon him. He thought that an enemy was seeking his life, and he endeavored to wrest himself from the grasp of his assailant. The struggle continued until near the break of day, when the stranger placed his fingers upon Jacob's thigh, and he was crippled instantly. The patriarch now discerned the character of his antagonist.

The error that had led to Jacob's sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud was now clearly set before him. He had not trusted God's promises, but had sought by his own efforts to bring about that which God would have accomplished in His own time and way. As an evidence that he had been forgiven, his name was changed from one that was a reminder of his sin, to one that commemorated his victory. "Thy name," said the Angel, "shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."

Jacob had received the blessing for which his soul had longed. His sin as a supplanter and deceiver had been pardoned. The crisis in his life was past. (Patriarchs and Prophets, 196-198)

Reflection: This night of Jacob's struggle represents the trying circumstances God's people will face at the end of time. We will sense our shortcomings, but must wrestle with God in prayer and be sure we have confessed every sin.
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