

A Light for Your Path

WEEK 2019 JANUARY 28—FEB 10

“Then he said, ‘You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, (one who strives with God) for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.’” —Genesis 32:28

New Beginnings!

New beginnings begin with God. One of the great stories of the Jewish Scriptures is the story of Jacob when he decided to return to his homeland. For 20 years he had been away serving his father-in-law Laban in another country. He had fled there to save his life from his brother Esau, whom he had cheated out of his birth blessing from his father. But now after having married two daughters of Laban and after having been very successful and gained much wealth, he had determined he must return to the land of his father. When he left he had been Jacob, the deceiver, but he could not return as such. He had to begin anew. His new beginning began in a wrestling match with one sent by God who forever changed him and gave him a new name, Israel. This is where all new beginnings really begin, by striving with God and with God’s purpose for our lives. Such striving has the potential of changing us and giving us a new name.

—Merritt Watson

Photo by Mac Harris