

The Peniel System

The word “penal” as in penal system means correction or disciplinary action. It’s so similar to the biblical word Peniel used by Jacob (the fugitive, the deceiver). Jacob’s struggle with the Angel was a representation of the penal or prison system. The relationship you build with Christ in prison is a struggle; in the mist of the different religions, drugs, and violence, you have to hold on to your purpose. You have to hold on to who you know God called you to be. The Angel touched Jacob’s thigh but Jacob would not let go. The significance in the touching of the thigh is that when you really have an encounter with God, you will forever WALK differently (there will be things and relationships you have to WALK away from and WALK out of). All this was done to Jacob prior to meeting his brother Esau after so many years. Society looks at prisoners as being second class citizens but God sees differently. Often times, real chosen vessels are isolated so God can mold them for his use. Which vessel is greater, the one that sits on the kings table made of brass and gold and is only handled by the royal servants to pour the kings wine or the vessel that’s a little ruddy and hardened from the weather and elements but is used to water the plants in the garden.

God hid Jacob for a season to build him up to be a witness among his family and friends; likewise, YOUR testimony of “I was in the Peniel System” means I’ve seen God face to face and my life is preserved! (Gen 32:30)