



ALEPH RESH BIBLICAL ~ Hebrew Insights

Come Follow Me ~ Genesis 32

And Elohim spoke to Israel. Like Abraham, Jacob received a new name. In a peculiar, and obviously ancient partial account of a very sacred ceremony, Elohim revealed Jacob's true spiritual character and identity. The traditional translation of this episode perpetuates the use of the English word "prevail", but the original Hebrew once again has deeper understanding, not to mention the Hebrew verse is structured to reveal the true meaning of the new name. I would propose an updated translation of Gen 32:25 as such:



God Reveals Jacob's New Name

Gen 32:28: "And He said, Your name will not be said Jacob any longer, but rather, Israel יִשְׂרָאֵל, for you have become a prince (*sarita* שָׂרִיתָ) with 'Elohim and with men, and you will overcome (*tuka*)."

To interpret the new name Israel as "God will prevail" is to really understand that the word *yisra'* to mean "to have royal or noble power". The Hebrew word *Sar* traditionally means "a prince" and the feminine spelling Sarah means "princess". Therefore, the name Israel in the context of Gen 32:28 probably means "Elohim has made a prince". See more Hebrew Insights at HebrewBible.info/insights