

16 Kislev, 5779 **Spiritual Vitality: Pressings Ahead Full Speed** J. M. Terrett

Vayishlach **And He Sent**

Torah: **Genesis 32:3(4)-36:43**

Haftarah: **Obadiah 1:1-21**

Brit Chadashah: **Hebrews 11:11-20**

Reading: Isaac p. 153 and Ps. 149. Jewish Hero: Zipporah. Carrier: Alan

Our Torah portion begins with Jacob sending messengers to Esau to see if a reconciliation could be worked out. He left shortly after he and his twin turned forty and he has spent at least twenty years in Charan. He left with very little and has become very wealthy, in fulfillment of the promises with Isaac pronounced over him. He does not want to have to fight his brother, but we learn later that he was quite a successful warrior whenever he or his flocks were attacked.

When Jacob received the blessing of the first born, Esau had said he will kill his brother, once their father has passed on, but Isaac continues to live for many years yet and dies at the age of 180 years, when the twins were 120 years old. So, there is a 60 year period between when Jacob returned and the death of their father. Esau dwells around Mount Seir and has himself acquired both wealth and power. Jacob sends a reconciliatory message and extensive presents to his brother and is troubled when he hears that Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men.