Jacob and Esau

Gen 33: 1, 4, 8-10

1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men.

“Jacob, upon seeing Esau approach with his four hundred men, advances with circumspection and lowly obeisance. He divided his family, arranged them according to their preciousness in his eyes, and walks himself in front. In drawing near, he bows seven times, in token of complete submission to his older brother. Esau, the wild hunter, is completely softened, and manifests the warmest affection, which is reciprocated by Jacob” (Barnes’ Notes, http://biblehub.com/commentaries/genesis/33-1.htm).

4 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.

“Esau kindly embraced Jacob, [Genesis 33:4](http://biblehub.com/genesis/33-4.htm). His wives and children present themselves to Esau, [Genesis 33:7](http://biblehub.com/genesis/33-7.htm). Jacob offers a present to his brother, [Genesis 33:8](http://biblehub.com/genesis/33-8.htm). He refuses it, [Genesis 33:9](http://biblehub.com/genesis/33-9.htm). Jacob presses him, and he accepts, [Genesis 33:10](http://biblehub.com/genesis/33-10.htm),11. They part friendly, [Genesis 33:12-15](http://biblehub.com/context/genesis/33-12.htm). Esau returns to Seir; Jacob comes to Succoth, [Genesis 33:17](http://biblehub.com/genesis/33-17.htm)”

(Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary, <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/genesis/33-1.htm)>.

8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

“. . .and he said, these are to find grace in the sight of my lord; to gain his favour and good will; and which, as it was a token of Jacob's good will to him, so, by his acceptance of it, he would know that he bore the same to him also. It was usual in the eastern countries to carry presents to friends, and especially to great men, whenever visits were paid, as all travellers in general testify to be still the usage in those parts, to this day” (Gills Exposition of the Bible, <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/genesis/33-8.htm)>.

9 And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.

10 And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

Was Jacob seeing Esau as God saw him? Was he beholding the perfect man in God’s image and likeness? Face to face? Is that attitude that healed this long-standing hatred and revenge? Is this how wars are avoided and healed? Jacob must have “marked the perfect man, and beheld the upright, for the end (the seeing of) that man is peace.”