

- Jacob's request for a blessing lifts this entire encounter above the realm of a mere physical struggle.

- Jacob had sought the blessing in the wrong way
Esau: weariness & hunger; Isaac: blindness, ~~the~~ labor

The first sentence in v. 25 is a transition; it is essential ~~not~~ for the struggle that now takes place that Jacob be alone: it is a kind of struggle in which a person can engage only when alone; no helper, no rescuer can come from outside. - [I isolate us, because we lean on others]

It is an attack - Jacob ~~was~~ defenseless & taken by surprise.

Bless = transferring strength. - In no other place in the OT can blessing be won through struggle.

The lump of all things which happened on that night when the name of Israel was received, this crippling of the ancestor became the subject of an especially nurtured memory.

- Behind this "nocturnal visitor" I was directly at work w/ Jacob.

Our whole history (Israel) is portrayed, prophesied here - a struggle still the breaking of the day.