

Jacob Dreams a Dreamy Dream

Genesis 28:6-22

Genesis 28:6-9 ⁶Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women," ⁷and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. ⁸So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, ⁹Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

- 6 Paddan-Aram- Over 500 miles from where they are in Beersheba
"must not take a wife from the Canaanite women"- as Esau already did with his Hittite wives
8 "Canaanite women did not please Isaac"- Esau only has Canaanite wives up till now
9 "Went to Ishmael"- Esau may be trying to make amends by taking a wife from the family
"besides the wives he had"- from 26:34 and some other names in 36:2

Genesis 28:10-17 ¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! ¹³And behold, YHWH stood above it and said, "I am YHWH, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by you and by your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely YHWH is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

- 12 "he dreamed"- this is the 2nd of many dreams to come in the book of Genesis. Who was the first?
"angels of God were ascending and descending"- Many interpretations through the centuries
13-15 YHWH confirms the blessing Isaac bestowed on Jacob in 28:1-5
14 "By you and by your offspring shall all... be blessed"- repeating the Messianic promise from 12:3
15 A hard promise to accept given the history that will follow. Cf. Matthew 28:20
16 "Surely YHWH is in this place"- YHWH revealed Himself there, this is Holy Ground
"and I did not know it"- we are often if not always oblivious of the spiritual realm around us
17 "The House of God, the Gate of Heaven"- It is where Heaven and Earth meet through God's word.

¹⁸So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰Then Jacob vowed a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then YHWH shall be my God, ²²and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

- 18 pillar- a longer stone set in the ground like a short pillar, often for religious/cultural purposes
"poured oil on the top of it"- he anointed it or consecrated it for religious purposes
19 Bethel- Name in Hebrew means "House of God," Luz was the original Canaanite name
20 "vowed a vow"-the Hebrew indicates a voluntary yet binding promise is made

His petition in this verse reminds us of which petition of the Lord's Prayer?

21 Jacob vows his loyalty to God should he survive the difficult journey ahead

22 "this stone...shall be God's house"- Jacob and his men built a mini temple, not just a stone, but the house around it as well.

For more on this Stone of Testimony concept see Joshua 24:26-27

More on Bethel: Jacob will be called by God to return there and he will set up an altar with this pillar (35). It features prominently in the battles of Joshua and Judges. In Judges 20 Bethel is where the Tabernacle has been moved from Shiloh. In 1 Kings 12, King Jeroboam places a Golden Calf in Bethel and one in Dan.

Psalm 78:1-8

N: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

S: incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

N: I will open my mouth in a parable;

S: I will utter dark sayings from of old,

N: things that we have heard and known,

S: that our fathers have told us.

N: We will not hide them from their children,

S: but tell to the coming generation

N: the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,

S: and the wonders that he has done.

N: He established a testimony in Jacob

S: and appointed a law in Israel,

N: which he commanded our fathers

S: to teach to their children,

N: that the next generation might know them,

S: the children yet unborn,

N: and arise and tell them to their children,

S: so that they should set their hope in God

N: and not forget the works of God,

S: but keep his commandments;

N: and that they should not be like their fathers,

S: a stubborn and rebellious generation,

N: a generation whose heart was not steadfast,

S: whose spirit was not faithful to God.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

And to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning

Is now and will be forever, amen.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Instant Replay of Jacob's Ladder Dream did reveal one Angel with Vertigo. **Ge 28:12**