

Genesis

Chapter 28:6-22

✠ *Gen 28:6-9 6 Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram. 8 Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac. 9 So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.*

Finally Esau stops for a minute and probably thinks to himself, *"Jacob has all the luck. He has the birthright, the blessing of the firstborn, and mom and dad are happy with him. They even send him away with another blessing. What's his secret? How could I make mom and dad happy with me too?"*

We see that Jacob obeyed his father and mother. How did he obey them? By going to Padan Aram to find a wife from his family line and not from the Canaanites. Esau may have figured this out. So he tries to make amends for marrying the two Canaanite women and goes and marries a woman from Abraham's family. Only he went to the wrong side of the family. He didn't go to the chosen side, which was Isaac's, but married Ishmael's daughter. Ishmael was Esau's uncle so he married his cousin.

"Come on Steve, don't give Esau such a hard time. After all he was trying."

Yes, he was trying. But once again he made a wrong choice, wanting to be a man pleaser rather than a God pleaser.

This will also be the last we read of Esau until we get to chapter 32.

- *Gen 28:10-12 10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. 12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God*

were ascending and descending on it.

This is what's called Jacob's ladder. Notice it says that the angels were ascending and descending, meaning that they were going from the earth to heaven, and from heaven back to the earth.

"So what" you may be thinking.

Well in order for angels to ascend or go up into heaven, they have to be here on the earth first. This would mean that right now there are angels on this earth, and they are going from here to heaven, and from heaven back to the earth.

But then if you will remember in the book of Hebrews it speaks of angels that are here on the earth even today.

† ***Heb 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.***

Angels are man made everywhere, on the Internet, in stores, books are written about them and there are cute little pictures and statues of them. (Some people even worship these statues)

But I don't read anywhere in the bible where it says that they are cute or that they give you give you the warm fuzzies. (I'm sorry, it's the best way I can describe it)

† ***Num 22:31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.***

† ***Isaiah 37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses--all dead.***

† *Acts 12:23-24* 23 *Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. 24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.*

Angels are not just for judgment and destroying people. Angels also serve, protect and minister to men (women and children too). In fact the word angel means: "messenger" or "to deliver a message"

† *Ex 14:19* *And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.*

† *Ex 23:20-21* 20 *"Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 "Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.*

† *1 Kings 19:5-8* 5 *Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.*

† *Psalms 91:11-12* 11 *For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

† *Dan 3:28* *Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"*

- † *Mark 1:13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.*

- † *Acts 5:19-20 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."*

- † *Acts 27:23 "For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve,*

- † *Heb 1:14 (NLT) But angels are only servants. They are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation.*

There may very likely be an angel next to you right now. As they say, "Do not be afraid" Trust that they are sent by God to help and protect you.

But you must also remember one other thing they always say.

- † *Rev 22:8-9 8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*

Recognize that they are from God, but don't worship them because they are not gods. One more thing that angels do, and that is worship GOD!

- † *Rev 5:11-12 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:
"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain*

*To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

So what was going on with this ladder? Let's read on and find out.

✠ *Gen 28:13-15 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. 14 "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. 15 "Behold, 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 spoken to you."*

Verse 13 says that God is standing or stood above the ladder. When you think of God, how do you see Him? Maybe sitting on the throne ruling over the heavens and earth. God is not a couch potato. He doesn't just sit there ruling (But HE does rule over the heavens and the earth). No God is working even now as you read this. This is what Jesus tells us.

✠ *But John 5:17 Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*

And here God is giving Jacob the same promise He made to Abraham and Isaac. The promise of the land and descendants as the dust of the earth along with the blessing for the whole earth through his descendants, which is Jesus. But at this time Jacob doesn't even have a wife, in fact he's running away from his brother who wants to kill him.

Has God made a promise to you, but things seem to be going wrong all the time? Have you forgotten God's promise? We know that God did keep His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and we are blessed with Jesus who was a descendant of these men. God made a promise to these men but they never saw the promise fully come to be.

Abraham had many sons, eight if I count right Isaac and Ishmael and six others as seen in Gen chapter 25:1-2. Also the land didn't belong to Abraham.

Isaac had two sons Jacob and Ishmael and he also didn't possess the land; and Here Jacob, with no wife, no where to live and running for his life.

You may not see God's promise come to pass in your lifetime. But it doesn't mean it won't.

Maybe you are praying for someone to accept Jesus and it hasn't happened yet.

Don't ever give up on God. His desire is that ALL would come to repentance and accept His Son Jesus. Keep praying and believing in God.

As God promised to Jacob: ***I am with you and will keep you wherever you go*** He will not leave you nor forsake you either!

✠ ***Gen 28:16-19 16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 And 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!"***

18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

Bethel means: *House of God*

Here is a very interesting satellite photo of this very area This is a shot of the land of Israel turned 90° counter-clockwise. Just a few miles north of Jerusalem is the city of Bethel where Jacob saw the ladder of God. Look closely at the topography within the red circle; it forms a word written in Hebrew letters!



A close-up of the satellite shot shows how the Hebrew letters YHVH have been carved within the area of Bethel approximately 2 miles in length. This is interesting in light of the scripture reference in

† *Genesis 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.*



[Jacob] moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to YHVH and called on the name of YHVH.

This is fascinating indeed, however, some of the Hebrew letters look a bit like other letters. From the same satellite shot, we see how the Hebrew letters more closely resemble YKYD or the word Yachid which means "*only unique son*" as used in

† *Gen. 22:2. Then [God] said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*



In Bethel, Jacob saw a ladder with the angels ascending and descending to the place where this word is written. Jesus said to Nathanael,

† *John 1:51 "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."*

Could it be that the ladder that Jacob saw at Bethel was actually the angels ascending and descending upon the only Son of YHWH?
Our God is indeed an AWESOME God!

After God spoke with Jacob, Jacob worshipped God.

We need to thank God for His word everyday and the freedom we have to read His word freely here in the USA. In some countries they don't have the bible or they pass around single pages of the bible. If they get caught with them then they are put to death. Be thankful for the freedom to read his word and go to church or even read this bible study. Once again in some countries if they get caught it would mean death.

✎ ***Gen 28:20-22 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. 22 "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."***

Jacob was not testing God here. No, he was expressing his faith in God. Kind of like saying, "God you have made a promise to Abraham, and my father Isaac. You have now made that same promise to me. I believe what you say and you will be my God."

Remember that there were many other so-called gods that others served during this time (and they still do today). This was God who would, and did prove Himself to Jacob. Proving the other gods as false gods because they couldn't speak, let alone hold to their promises. But God did and will even for you!

One last vow Jacob made to God before we end this weeks study.



"Of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

I wonder where he got this idea? Maybe his grandfather Abraham.

† ***Gen 14:19-20 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.***

† ***Heb 7:1-2 1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"***

There was no argument or trying to say that tithing was just for Abraham, trying to get out of giving to God. Do you question the fact that we tithe? Do you question if you should really give ten percent to God?

As we close this week's study, ask yourself, man or woman, what are you handing down to your children or your family?

Are you handing down to them your favorite TV shows?

What about your favorite music of the world?

Are you teaching them to dress in a manner that is not fitting?

Are you teaching them to sleep in on Sunday and not go to church if they don't want to?

Maybe you are teaching them that sex before marriage is OK or that making out on the sofa or in a car is OK.

Are you teaching them to gossip and talk bad about others?

What about laziness? Do you badmouth your boss? Maybe even worse you are badmouthing your husband or wife.

We hear our kids say a curse word and ask where they heard it from, when the answer is right there looking at us in the mirror.

Maybe you teach them to rob from God just by questioning tithing?

If you want Godly kids, it starts with a Godly parent.

Your kids may be a reflection of what you really are. If you are not happy with their walk with the Lord, stop first and look at your own walk.

Not encouraging words to close with, but words some need to hear.