

## **Genesis 28 New American Standard Bible**

### **Jacob Is Sent Away**

So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and commanded him, saying to him, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. <sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother. <sup>3</sup> May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, so that you may become a multitude of peoples.

<sup>4</sup> May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, so that you may possess the land where you live as a stranger, which God gave to Abraham.” <sup>5</sup> Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

<sup>6</sup> Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take to himself a wife from there, *and that* when he blessed him he commanded him, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,” <sup>7</sup> and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram. <sup>8</sup> So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac; <sup>9</sup> and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebaioth.

### **Jacob’s Dream**

<sup>10</sup> Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> And he happened upon a particular place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and made it a support for his head, and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup> And he had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

<sup>13</sup> Then behold, the Lord was standing above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

<sup>15</sup> 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 promised you.” <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “The Lord is certainly in this place, and I did not know it!” <sup>17</sup> 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!”

<sup>18</sup> So Jacob got up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had placed as a support for his head, and set it up as a memorial stone, and poured oil on its top.

<sup>19</sup> Then he named that place Bethel; but previously the name of the city had been Luz. <sup>20</sup> Jacob also made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and give me food to eat and garments to wear, <sup>21</sup> and I return to my father’s house in safety, then the Lord will be my God. <sup>22</sup> And this stone, which I have set up as a memorial stone, will be God’s house, and of everything that You give me I will assuredly give a tenth to You.”

**We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

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What questions were provoked within you?  
Did anything confuse you?  
Did anything move you emotionally?  
Did God instruct you to do something?  
Did you gain any insight into God's character?

### **Pauls observations and insights**

1. Why was it Isaac that told Jacob to look for a wife from somewhere else other than Canaan. Had Rebecca nobbled Isaac?
2. How hard was it for Isaac to bless Jacob again after he had been deceived by him?
3. Isaac was instructing his own son to do what his own mother had done to him! Do mothers always know best?
4. Isaac in his blessing to Jacob reiterates the stolen blessing, only this time it was to the right person.
5. What is the blessing of Abraham?
6. God promised to bless not only Abraham, in Genesis 12:1-3, but to also bless all the families of the earth through him.
7. Do you think Jacob was happy to leave his family and home and go and look for a wife?
8. How did Esau feel about his brother leaving, after all he had planned to take his life!
9. Esau saw his dad bless Jacob again, if he didn't feel like the black sheep already, he must have done so now. After all his dad had told him he had no more blessings to give, except the scraps!
10. Esau saw Jacob, his brother, obey his mum and dad.
11. Esau saw that Canaanite girls despised his mum and dad, so he decides to marry from the line of Ishmael, Abraham's first born son by Haggii. Why did he do this?
12. Jacob went on his journey to his uncle Laban to search out a wife and on the way he takes his rest.
13. He made for himself a bed and lay his head upon a chosen stone and Jacob has a dream.
14. Jacob saw in the dream a ladder starting on earth and reaching up into heaven.
15. He saw angels of God going up and down the ladder. What does this mean?
16. In the dream Jacob saw the Lord looking down and he heard Him say, 'I am the Lord - Ego Ime. - I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and Isaac.
17. God reiterates to Jacob, the promise he had made to Abraham, I will give you this land, I will multiply your nations, you will push out your boundaries to the four corners. In you and in all your descendants, all the families of the earth will be blessed.'
18. Galatians 3:13-14, Paul relates this blessing as being bestowed upon the Gentiles through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross
19. God even now at this time is preparing for Jesus Christ's coming.

20. When God says 'I am with you' you know He is with you!
21. When God says 'I will keep you wherever you go' you know God will keep you. You will know that you can live in security and rest.
22. God promises Jacob He will bring him back to this land, so Jacob knows he is coming back no matter how long it takes.
23. Jacob is amazed and perplexed, he says, 'how amazing is this place'.
24. He says 'this is the house of God'. Was it the house of God?
25. He says 'this is the gateway to heaven'. Was it the gateway to heaven?
26. Jacob marks the place with an offering of oil on a stone he had laid on when he had the dream.
27. Did the stone have any significance? No, but the place is named Bethel, which is a very significant place in the journey of the Jews. What happened at Bethel?
28. Jacob makes a pact with himself before God. Was that the right thing to be doing?
29. Why did he not hear the voice of the Lord in the dream and take encouragement from it?
30. He says to himself 'if God does this for me then He will be my God' was this the right thing to be saying?
31. This protection by God would convince Jacob and in return Jacob would learn to tithe. Should we tithe today?