

## Isaac—Genesis 28

### Jacob Fled Home

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 28:1...** THOU SHALT NOT TAKE A WIFE—“These are almost the same words spoken by Abraham to the servant who was sent to procure Rebekah for Isaac. And one can only marvel that Isaac had avoided and neglected this task as long as he had. The usual calculation for the age of Jacob at this time is 77 years, although another method of calculating his age makes it about 57. If the first is correct, then Ishmael had been dead fourteen years when Isaac commanded Jacob to go to the house of Bethuel. If the second calculation is allowed, Ishmael still lived and would not have died until six years later. The statement that 'Esau went unto Ishmael' (*Gen. 28:9*), inferring that Ishmael was alive at the time of the events of this chapter, definitely favors the lower calculations of 57 for the age of Jacob. The Bible here says nothing whatever about anyone's age, and human deductions are subject to all kinds of errors” [Coffman].
- 28:2...** PADANARAM—“By this name, which signifies *the table-land of Aram*, that is, Syriac, the Hebrews designated the tract of country, which they, otherwise, called the *Aram-naharaim*, "Aram of the two of rivers", the Greek Mesopotamia, [Gen 24:10](#), and "the field, (Authorized Version, 'country'), of Syria." [Hos 12:13](#). The term was, perhaps, more especially applied to that portion, which bordered on the Euphrates, to distinguish it from the mountainous districts, in the north and northeast of Mesopotamia. It is, elsewhere, called **Padan** simply. [Gen 48:7](#). Abraham obtained a wife for Isaac, from Padan-aram. [Gen 25:20](#). Jacob's wives were also from Padan-aram, [Gen 28:2](#); [Gen 28:5-7](#); [Gen 31:1-8](#); [Gen 33:18](#)” [*Smith's Bible Dictionary*].
- 28:3...** “The difference between this blessing and the one that Isaac mistakenly conferred upon Jacob earlier is rather striking. In the first, there was no mention of the Abrahamic promise, but here Isaac apparently made an effort to go all the way in conferring the covenant blessing. But even in this there could have been a deficiency, a lack supplied by God Himself in the vision that came as a sequel, that being the fact that 'all the families of the earth' would be blessed in his seed. Nevertheless, even as it stood, the blessing seemed to convey the impression that Isaac had repented of his sinful effort to convey the birthright to Esau” [Coffman].
- 28:8...** PLEASED NOT ISAAC—cf., *Gen 24:3*; *26:34-35*; *1 Sam 8.6*.
- 28:12...** BEHOLD A LADDER—Lessons from the Ladder: “(1) The continual interest of God in his human creation is evident. Earth is not isolated from God or from heaven. There is a line of communication. Countless angels are busy as divine servants "doing service for them that shall be the heirs of salvation" (*Heb. 1:14*). (2) The omnipresence of God, called also His ubiquitousness, was also shown in this dream. Jacob was away from home, in a strange land, and fleeing from the wrath of a brother, but one cannot flee beyond the watchful eye of the Lord. No more could Jacob than Jonah, run away from God. Every man must discover (soon or late) that "Surely God is in this place (every place)" whether men know it or not. (3) The ladder is also a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. The ladder was "the way" between earth and heaven; and Christ affirmed that he is indeed "The Way" (*John 14:6*); and, as Jacob saw the angels of God ascending and descending upon that ladder, Jesus affirmed to Nathaniel that he would "see angels ascending and descending

upon the Son of Man" (John 1:51). The ladder is therefore a perfect representation of Christ in that in him God came down to men, and in him men themselves may go up to God and be in heaven with him forever. Christ is the only avenue of communication between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5), just as this ladder in the dream was the only way to God's presence. To miss this significance of the ladder is to lose the most important thing in the chapter." [Coffman].

**28:19...** BETHEL—"A place in Central Palestine, about 10 miles north of Jerusalem, at the head of the pass of Michmash and Ai. It was originally the royal Canaanite city of Luz ([Gen 28:19](#)). The name Bethel was at first apparently given to the sanctuary in the neighbourhood of Luz, and was not given to the city itself till after its conquest by the tribe of Ephraim" [*Easton's Bible Dictionary*].

## II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

## III. Summary.

This chapter informs us about Jacob's receiving a repeated, but more complete, blessing from his father Isaac. Jacob is then sent out to find himself a wife of his mother's family. He travels toward Padanaram for that purpose and on the way at a place called Luz, renamed Bethel, the Lord communicates with Jacob by means of a dream of a ladder extending up into heaven. In this vision Jacob is reassured by the Lord Himself that he is indeed the chosen seed and that the Lord would be with him.

## IV. Outline.

1. Isaac charges Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman (Genesis 28:1-2).
2. Jacob receives the Abrahamic blessing (28:3-4).
3. Isaac sends Jacob away to find a wife (28:5).
4. Esau seeks favor of his father by marrying Ishmael's daughter (28:6-9).
5. In Jacob's journey, he rests at Bethel (28:10-11).
6. God communicates to Jacob by a dream (28:12-15; cf., Heb 1:1).
7. Jacob names the place where he had the dream Bethel (28:16-19).
8. Jacob vows a vow (28:20-22).

## V. Questions.

### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ When Jacob awakened after his dream, he was afraid.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Part of Jacob's vow to the Lord involved giving the Lord ten percent.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Esau figured out that his wives did not please his father.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham's name is not mentioned in this chapter.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ In this chapter we read about a stairway to heaven.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following is NOT used in this chapter to identify Laban: (a) Syrian; (b) brother of Rebekah; (c) son of Bethuel.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ According to this chapter, who did not please Isaac: (a) Jacob; (b) Rebekah; (c) the daughters of Canaan.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Was the land promise repeated to Jacob more than once in this chapter: (a) YES; (b) NO.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Which came first: (a) Luz; (b) Bethel; (c) we can't know from the text.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Why did Jacob camp at Bethel: (a) It was a holy place; (b) the sun was setting as he traveled; (c) the text does not tell us.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. Isaac charged his son, Jacob, “Thou shalt not take a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan.”
12. Jacob desired to come again to his \_\_\_\_\_ in peace.
13. Esau’s third wife was called: \_\_\_\_\_.
14. “And he \_\_\_\_\_, and behold a \_\_\_\_\_ set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to \_\_\_\_\_.”
15. Isaac gave to Jacob the blessing of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week’s handout*

**ANSWERS to Genesis 27 Questions...** [01—True, Gen 27:1; 02—True, Gen 27:13; 03—True, Gen 27:24; 04—True, Gen 27:46; 05—False, Gen 27:33; 06—b, Gen 27:5; 07—b, Gen 27:22; 08—c, Gen 27:12; 09—e, Gen 27:34; 10—a, Gen 27:44; 11—sword, serve, brother, Gen 27:40; 12—quiver, bow, Gen 27:3; 13—Lord, God, brought, Gen 27:20; 14—dew, heaven, fatness, Gen 27:28; 15—Esau, firstborn, Gen 27:19.]

## VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan** (Gen 28:1). The purpose of this charge is easy to see. The Canaanite women would turn Jacob away from the Lord. Selection of a marriage companion surely must be the second most important decision any person ever makes, number one being to become a Christian.
2. **When Esau saw...** (Gen 28:6-9). It is tragic indeed that Esau is just now “seeing” this important distinction. Even more tragic is the fact that he thinks he can fix the problem by adding one more wife. It is the sad tendency of man to look for some easy solution to problems brought into their lives by their own past mistakes.
3. **And he dreamed, and behold a ladder...** (Gen 28:12). See Coffman’s three lessons listed above under I.
4. **...I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of** (Gen 28:15). Jacob, at this time, was likely feeling pretty lonely and discouraged and down-in-the-dumps. His brother hated him and he had said he wanted to kill him. He would be separated from his mother (whom he loved dearly), for several years. Surely he must have been feeling some guilt over the fact that he had deceived his father. These words of comfort from the Lord must have buoyed up his spirits considerably! What a blessing it is to have such a God as we have to serve and worship. He is indeed THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT (2 Corinthians 1:3). With such a promise as this, he should have been able to go on and serve the Lord faithfully the rest of his life. Our Lord has made a similar promise to us in Matthew 28:20.
5. **...and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee** (Gen 28:22). Of course, this is a long time before the Law of Moses. The Law of Moses provided for a special tribe (Levi) to take care of the offering of sacrifices to the Lord. They had no inheritance and had to depend upon the other tribes. The tithe was the provision the Lord made for the tribe of Levi, to sustain them. Here, Jacob shows the real reason for, and the attitude behind, the later to come ordinance. It is out of sincere gratitude and thanksgiving that the tithe should be given. Our giving today must be sacrificial, generous, cheerful, given in view of what we have received, etc.

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Q A T Z X S W N O R T H E D C V F T O P  
 R F V O B G T Y H N M J U I K L O P L I  
 K M J U T Y W I T H T H E E Y H N B G T  
 R F V C D H E W S X Z A Q W S X E C D E  
 A R F V B G Y T G B N H Y U J V M L K I  
 O S P O R F V S C D E W S X I D Z A A Q  
 W W T E D C V F E R T G G G B E N N H Y  
 U J M H K I O L P E I U I Y T S R D E T  
 W S X Z E A Q W S X D L C D E C R F D S  
 A L L B V D B G T Y L U J L M E K I E A  
 O I U Y E T U W S I C D R G A N F V H E  
 W B G T Y B U S W J M K I N O D Y H C N  
 E V F R E D L C T W E C G I U I D Y A T  
 S E D C V F D E T G B N H D Y N U E E O  
 T M J U Y E H N S B G T R N E G W S R X  
 V F R T M Y H N M S U I N E V A E H O T  
 B G T A R F V C D E E W S C X Z A Q W S  
 X C E C D E R F V B G D T S Y H N M J U  
 K R B G T R F V C D E Q A A N G E L S B  
 D B G T Y H S O U T H M J Y E W A D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

**Genesis 28:12-15...** <sup>12</sup>And he **dreamed**, and behold a **ladder** set up on the earth, and the **top** of it **reached to heaven**: and behold the **angels** of God **ascending** and **descending** on it. <sup>13</sup>And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the **land** whereon thou liest, to thee **will I give** it, and **to thy seed**; <sup>14</sup>And thy seed shall be **as the dust** of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the **west**, and to the **east**, and to the **north**, and to the **south**: and in thee and in thy seed shall **all** the families of the earth **be blessed**. <sup>15</sup>And, behold, I *am* **with thee**, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.