

Nowhere To Look But Up

Genesis 28:1-22

Introduction

I Jacob's Departure

- A. Isaac **blessed** Jacob
- B. Isaac instructed Jacob
 - 1. Do not marry a Canaanite woman - Gen 26:34-35; 27:46
 - 2. Take a **wife** from the daughters of Laban - 2 Cor 6:14-16
- C. Isaac pronounced a blessing on Jacob
 - 1. May God bless you & make you **fruitful** - Jn15:8; 2Ti 2:2
 - 2. May He give you the blessing and **land** of Abraham
- D. Isaac sent Jacob on his way

II Esau's Reaction To His Father

- A. He learned of Isaac's instruction to Jacob - Ex 20:12
- B. He realized that his wives **displeased** Isaac
- C. He married, Mahalath, daughter of Ishmael - Isa 30:1

III Jacob's Dream

- A. Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran
 - 1. He stopped for the night along the way
 - 2. He put a **stone** under his head for a pillow
- B. Jacob had a dream - Heb 1:1-2; Isa 30:15
 - 1. He saw a **stairway** reaching to heaven - Jn 1:51; 14:6
 - 2. He saw angles ascending and descending - Heb 1:14
- C. Jacob heard the Lord speak to him
 - 1. I am the Lord, the God of Abraham and Isaac
 - 2. I will give you the **land** you are lying on
 - 3. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth
 - 4. All **peoples** on earth will be blessed through you
 - 5. I will be with you and will **watch** over you - Isa 41:10
 - 6. I will bring you back to this land
 - 7. I will not **leave** you until I have done what I promised

IV Jacob's Reaction To His Heavenly Father

- A. Jacob awoke from his sleep he said: - Ps 139:7-10
 - 1. The Lord is in this **place**, and I was not aware of it

- 2. How awesome is this place
 - a. This is the **house** of God - Col 1:21-22
 - b. This is the **gate** of heaven - Jn 10:9-10; Matt 7:13-14
- B. Jacob took his stone pillow and set up a memorial
 - 1. He set it up as a **pillar**
 - 2. He poured oil on top of it
 - 3. He called the place, Bethel
- C. Jacob made a conditional vow to God
 - 1. His **conditions**:
 - a. If God will be with me
 - b. If God will **watch** over me on this journey
 - c. If God will give me good to eat and clothes to wear
 - d. If God brings me back safely to my father's house
 - 2. His **promises**:
 - a. Then the Lord will be my God - Jn 15:16; Eph 1:4-7
 - b. Then the stone will be God's house - Gen 35:1
 - c. Then I will give God **10%** of all He gives - Mal 3:8-11

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share the most significant encounter you've ever had with God.
2. Jacob was running from the consequences of "working the angles". Is there anything in your life that you are running from? What do you think God wants you to do? [Prov 28:13]
3. In verses 20-22, Jacob seems to be striking a deal with God. What's happening here? 1) Jacob is "working the angles" 2) He has a growing trust in God or 3) It's a new spiritual beginning.
4. What does the Bible teach regarding salvation: Did we choose God, or did He choose us? [Hint: Read Jn 15:16; Eph 1:4-7]
5. What evidence do you see that Jacob was truly converted? Do you see this same evidence in your life? Why or why not?
6. Take a moment to thank God for "ruining you" that you might become useful for Him. [James 1:2-4; 1Pet 3:3-9; 1Cor 1:8-9]

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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