

GENESIS –Lesson 50

Learn: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6

Read: Genesis 27:46; 28:1-22

1. Was the reason that Rebekah gave Isaac for sending Jacob away for a wife genuine? Genesis 27:46 Also see Genesis 26:34, 35.
Explain your answer.
2. Upon receiving Rebekah's counsel in this matter, what was Isaac's first instruction to Jacob? Genesis 28:1
3. Where did Isaac send Jacob to find a wife that would be a believer in the true God?
v 2
4. What did Isaac tell Jacob that showed that he was now completely obedient to God in the matter of the younger son as the next in line to inherit "the Blessing?" vv 3, 4
5. By what name did Isaac call God as he gave this blessing to Jacob? v 3

Why is this name ("El Shaddai" in Hebrew) picturing God as overpowering, especially noteworthy considering what had just taken place in Isaac's giving of the blessing? Isaiah 46:10

6. What four things caused Esau to make a decision to marry another wife? vv 6-8
7. What are two things in Esau's decision that show his heart was not right with God when he married again, but that he was trying to please his parents in a worldly way?
v 9

8. According to verse 10, what did Jacob do as commanded by his parents?

So far as the record goes, Jacob had spent most of his life until this point in the family home of Beersheba. It was five hundred miles to Haran and, even though he no doubt had a camel or an ass to ride on, it would be many weeks before he could hope to reach his destination. Beersheba was in the very south of what we call Israel today. To get to Haran Jacob would travel north through the Promised Land.

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9. What happened near the beginning of Jacob's journey? vv 11, 12

NOTE: Bethel is about seventy miles north of Beersheba, and it is likely that it took Jacob at least two- possibly three- days to get this far.

It may seem odd to us when the scripture says that Jacob used stones of that place for a pillow (head rest). But in museums today one can see Chinese headrests made for resting the head in sleep out of porcelain.

10. The phrase "he lighted upon a certain place" almost sounds like Jacob came to this place by chance. How do we know that in God's economy nothing ever happens by chance, and that God directed Jacob to that very spot?

Jeremiah 10:23

Proverbs 20:24

Psalms 37:23

11. What had happened at this very spot in the past? Genesis 12:8; 13:3, 4

Jacob had known and believed God's promises practically all his life. No doubt he worshiped the Lord and prayed frequently to Him. Never before, however, had God actually appeared and spoken to him, as He had to Abraham and Isaac.

12. What happened as Jacob slept on the stones of Bethel? vv 12, 13

The appearance of God to men before the time of Jesus is called a “theophany.” This theophany was in the form of a dream. Though not the only way-or even the usual way-in which God appeared to men in these ancient times, such a means was certainly used on many occasions. This does not mean, of course, that any supernatural significance is normally to be ascribed to dreams. It is only that, when Scripture so indicates, God used this means, as well as various other means to speak to man.

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13. What is recorded for us in Hebrews 1:1?

14. What is amazing about the ladder that Jacob saw in his dream? v 12

15. Remember at the time of the tower of Babel when man tried to build a way to “heaven”? Genesis 11:1-19. It was judged by God. Why did their attempt to reach heaven fail? Hebrews 11:6

Romans 1:18-23

It is obvious that this was no ordinary ladder. The word is the Hebrew “sullam,” and is used only this one time in the Bible. Whatever its exact form may have been, it clearly pictured to Jacob the interrelationships of earth and heaven. It showed there was intense interest in heaven concerning what took place on earth, with multitudes of mighty ministers of God coming down to earth to carry out God’s commands, then returning to report concerning the earth and to receive further instructions.

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16. Today when those who say they believe the Bible are putting forth the heresy that dead loved ones can also go between heaven and humans on earth as messengers from God, what should be said to them? Isaiah 8:19

17. Though they are normally invisible to human eyes, what does the Scripture teach concerning angels?
Hebrews 12:22

Hebrews 1:13, 14

Psalm 103:20

Luke 15:10

I Peter 1:10-12

Psalm 34:7

Psalm 91:11

Daniel 9:21

Job 1:6 with Genesis 28:12)

Regardless of the exact location of God's throne in the physical universe, or what limitations are experienced by their peculiar spirit-bodies in accomplishing such translocations, angels therefore do move back and forth, up and down, between God and man, as they carry out their assignments from God on behalf of men.

There is not, of course, a literal staircase to heaven, on which angels ascend and descend. This was only a dream symbolizing a marvelous reality. Though earth is surely separated by a vast seemingly impassable gulf of space from the heaven of God's presence, signifying man's separation from God's holiness, a bridge has been built to span the gulf. That magnificent Ladder could only be built by God Himself.

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18. Who is that Ladder that gives us access to God in heaven? John 1:51

The Lord Jesus Christ claimed that He Himself was Jacob's Ladder, the one means by which one could go from earth to heaven. He is the Way, He is the one Mediator, between man and God. All the infinite ministries and activities of the mighty angels depend on Him. He is none other than God, the Creator, the Sustainer, and the Redeemer of all things.

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19. Though in past ages angels had frequently traveled from heaven to earth and back again, at the time when Jesus spoke the words in John 1:51, who was the only man who had ascended up to heaven? John 3:13

When Jesus came to earth in the form of a man, He took our sins upon Himself, dying in our place to pay our penalty for our sin. He rose from the dead gaining victory over death and sin. Jesus opened the way for ever into the presence of God.

20. What do the following Scriptures tell us?

Philippians 1:23

II Corinthians 5:6-8

A believer in Jesus goes to heaven by way of Him. He is our Ladder by which we ascend to heaven.

Jacob may not have understood the full New Testament import of his remarkable dream, but he surely would understand that God would provide the means by which man could be restored to God.

21. As Jacob marveled at the ladder in his dream, he saw God Himself standing above the ladder and heard him speak. What did He say to Jacob? vv 13-15

22. There are those who teach that there are special locations in the world called “thin” places where it is easier to meet God. What should a Christian reply? Give Scripture to back your answer.

23. What was Jacob’s response to his dream? vv 16,17

24. What did Jacob do to mark this special place of his meeting with God? vv 18, 19

25. What vow did Jacob make to the Lord at Bethel? 20-22

26. So did the idea to give a tenth to the Lord come by way of the law and apply only to Israel or did it come before the law?
Explain your answer.