

Genesis 28:10-22 **Ladder from Heaven & Jacob's Vow**

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. 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." 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. 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." NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ Jacob left his father and mother who were living at Beersheba and headed north toward Haran which is in Syria.
- ✧ He spent the night at Bethel because the sun had set and used a rock for a pillow. Bethel is about 53 miles north, north east of Beersheba.
- ✧ In a dream Jacob saw a ladder reaching to Heaven with angels ascending and descending on it.
- ✧ Above the top of the Ladder Jacob saw Yehowah standing.
- ✧ Yehowah identified Himself saying, "**Aniy Yehowah Elohey Abraham** (I AM Yehowah God of Abraham) **your father and Elohey Yitschaq** (God of Isaac)."
- ✧ Yehowah repeated His covenant promise to Abraham in full, saying:
 - “The land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. 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
- So the promise included all the land, innumerable descendants, and the Messianic Promise that in you and in your seed, all the families of the earth will be blessed, confirming that it was through Jacob and not Esau that the covenant promise would pass.
- ✧ Then God made a special promise that He would be with Jacob wherever he was to go and that God would bring Jacob back to the land of Canaan, promising not to leave Jacob until God had done what He promised.
- ✧ God thus demonstrated that He can and does appear to a person anywhere and when least expected as Jacob realized that God is in this place and I did not know it.
- ✧ Jacob in fear said, “How awesome (fearful) is this place! This is none other than **Bayith Elohiym** (The House of God) and this is **Shaar Hashamayim** (The Gate of Heaven)!

- ☆ Jacob set up his stone pillow and poured oil on it and called it **Bayith-El** (**BETHEL - House of God**). The city nearby was previously called Luz (means: **turned aside**).
- ☆ Jacob's vow;
 - If God does as He promised to be with me and keep me in this way I am going, and provides food to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then Yehowah shall be my **Elohiym** (The Lord shall be my God).
- ☆ Jacob had fled because of a death threat from his brother Esau and returning in peace was a very important factor that Jacob was trusting God to perform, and became part of his vow to God.
- ☆ God's greatest desire for His people is that they accept Him as their God and choose to be His people. [[Leviticus 26:12](#), [Jeremiah 7:23](#); [11:4](#), [Ezekiel 11:20](#), [Zechariah 8:8](#), [2 Corinthians 6:16-18](#), [Hebrews 8:10](#), [Revelation 21:3](#)]
- ☆ Jacob also vowed that, "This stone I have set up will be God's house and I will surely give God one tenth of all that God gives me." Jacob thus followed the example of Abraham in promising to tithe to God. The promise is not to men but to God.