

# **Genesis 28**

## **Genesis 28.1-9**

**V1 – Has Isaac “forgiven” Jacob?** Apparently

-**What instructions did Isaac give Jacob?** Don't get a wife from Canaanites (pagan)

-See *Genesis 27.46* – Rebekah didn't like local women

-**Is this reminiscent of another similar case?** Abraham told Eliezer not to get a wife for Isaac from local women

**Read 2 Cor. 6.14-17**

**V2 – Where was Jacob to get his wife?** From daughters of his mother's brother (his cousins)

**V3 –** Seems to be a sincere blessing this time

-**Did God create many descendants of Jacob?** Yes – 12 sons = 12 tribes

**V4 – Who else's blessings would Jacob receive?** All blessings that were promised to Abraham

**V5 –** Isaac sent Jacob away to his relatives

**V6 –** Esau saw all the words and actions between Isaac and Jacob – he saw that Isaac wanted Jacob to marry from among his relatives

**V7 – What else did Esau observe?** That Jacob obeyed his parents

**V8 – What else did Esau see?** That the local women were not pleasing to his parents

**V9 – What did Esau do then?** Married a third woman – a daughter of Ishmael

-**Why?** Maybe to please his parents (a try anyway)

-**Ishmael?** – Son of Abraham (but not the son of the promise)

-If marrying a daughter of Ishmael was OK, Isaac would have suggested that for Jacob

-Esau's heart was just not in the right place

## **Genesis 28.10-17**

**V10 – What did Jacob leave behind him?** Old, [senile] father, scheming mother, brother who hated him – In other words, he was beginning a new life here.

-Look up Haran in maps of a standard Bible dictionary or atlas – about 300 miles to north of Palestine

**V11 – What arrangements did Jacob make for a bed on first night of trip?** Rock for “headrest”

**V12-13 – What happened during his sleep?** A dream (orchestrated by God)

-**3 things he saw (notice 3 “beholds”):**

1. Ladder between heaven and earth,
2. Angels going up and down ladder

3. Presence of God at top of ladder

**-Message of God in vs. 13** – *The land would go to Jacob and his descendants*

**-How did God identify himself?** God of Abraham and Isaac

**V 14** – **Message in vs. 14?** 1. Many descendants 2. Would be blessed through his descendant(s) - Jesus

**V 15** – **Promises of God to Jacob in v 15?** God would be with him whenever he went

**V 16** – **What did Jacob learn from this dream?** That God is everywhere (omnipresent) – Jacob was about 70 miles from home here

**-Who else in the Old Testament learned this lesson?** Hagar and Jonah (you can't run away from God)

**V 17** – **Jacob's reactions?** Fear – the awesome nature of God was frightening

-God was not some local idol but was everywhere – He could see all

Let us remember this principle as we leave home and travel

## **Genesis 28.18-22**

**V 18** – **What did Jacob do when he woke up?** 1. Set stone on pillar 2. Poured oil on it

**-Why?** To commemorate the event

-God forbade anyone to carve a stone (to prevent idolatry), but they could make a pile of stones to commemorate an event (a cairn)

**V 19** – **What was the original name of the place?** Luz (didn't mean a thing to Jacob)

**-What did he rename the place?** Beth-el

**-Meaning?** House of God

**V 20-21** – Jacob made a vow

**-Vow Jacob made?** If 1. God would be with him on journey 2. Provide him with food and clothing, 3. Allow him to return to Isaac safely – then God would be Jacob's God.

**V 22** – **“God's house”** – maybe still a misunderstanding in his mind about omnipresence of God, or maybe the stone was just a reminder of God's house

**-What else would Jacob do?** Give 10% to God

**-Who else did this?** Abraham – gave 10% to Melchizedak – *Genesis 14.20*

*Chapter 28* – God is molding Jacob to be his faithful servant – Jacob will become more and more spiritual as we go through *Genesis*.

Revised 2012-09-15