

## Lesson 6: Jacob Flees from Esau

## Genesis 28:10-22

### Background/Context

- Jacob lied and deceived to receive the blessing and birthright from his father Isaac.
- Esau, his brother, received only “the leftovers”
  - The nation that would come from his line (Edom) would settle in the desert region of the Negev “away from the earth’s richness, away from the dew of heaven” (27:39).
  - Edom would be under Israelite jurisdiction (27:40a)
  - Edom would enjoy temporary independence occasionally (27:40b)
- Esau in his anger plotted to kill his brother Jacob once Isaac would pass away
- Rebekah heard about his plot and told Jacob to set out for her brother Laban’s household in the country of Haran. She wanted him to wait there until Esau cooled down and it would be safe to return.

### Read 28:10-15

1) Early in his journey Jacob received a special blessing from God. What was it? Why was it comforting?

2) Why did Jacob still retain his favored position in God’s plan in spite of his sin?

3) At times we might think we have lost our claim to a share in God’s eternal kingdom. Have you ever felt that way? Why?

4) In spite of our sin, how can we be certain that God has a place for us in his eternal kingdom?

5) The blessing God spoke to Jacob echoed his blessing to Jacob’s grandfather Abraham. Identify the four basic promises contained in the blessing.

### Verse 13:

#1 -

### Verse 14:

#2 -

#3 -

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Verse 15:

#4 -

7) How would “all peoples on earth” be blessed through Jacob and his offspring?

8) People sometimes claim that God has spoken to them in a dream. What do you think about those claims? Still possible? Validity?

Jeremiah 23:31,32 – “Yes,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘the LORD declares.’ Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,” declares the LORD. “They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least,” declares the LORD.

### Read 28:16-22

1) Jacob knew that God is omnipresent (everywhere at all times), but he was very surprised that in the middle of this wilderness—far from family and fellow believers—God would make himself known in this spectacular way. The Hebrew indicates the surprising nature of the vision by three times using the word “Behold!” What two things did Jacob say when he awoke from his dream?

2) Jacob named the place Bethel, which means “House of God.” He called it that because God spoke to him there. Where is the house of God today?

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3) This Scripture section speaks of a stairway on which angels were ascending and descending to and from the Lord. In the following passage Jesus referred to Jacob's dream, but changed the picture.

John 1:51 – He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

3a) Instead of a stairway, upon what would the angels be ascending and descending?

3b) In what way is Jesus the stairway, or gateway, to heaven?

4) What three things did Jacob do when he woke up in the morning? (Verses 18 & 19) How would this help the name of God spread and become more well-known? What is the modern-day equivalent to this?

5) Jacob basically said in verses 20 & 21, "Lord, you will be my God only if you do what you have promised me." Was that wrong of him to say?

6) Jacob also vowed to do something in response to God's grace. What was it?