

# BOOK OF GENESIS

## GENESIS 28

VERSES 1-9	ADDED TEXTUAL NOTES, QUESTIONS, OTHER
<p><sup>1</sup>So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: “Do not marry a Canaanite woman. <sup>2</sup>Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother’s father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother. <sup>3</sup>May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. <sup>4</sup>May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham.” <sup>5</sup>Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way, and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.</p> <p><sup>6</sup>Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram to take a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he commanded him, “Do not marry a Canaanite woman,” <sup>7</sup>and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Paddan Aram. <sup>8</sup>Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac; <sup>9</sup>so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.</p>	<p><b>V. 1 – Isaac confirms Rebekah’s instructions for Jacob to flee and where to flee. BUT! What is Rebekah’s motivation behind this fleeing again? How does this contrast her disposition in agreeing to marry Isaac back in chapter 24?</b></p> <p><b>Vv. 2 – Jacob affirms Abraham’s blessing passed down to Jacob.</b></p> <p><b>Vv. 6-9 – Describe Esau’s behavior here.</b></p>

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VERSES 10-22	
<p><sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a <b>stairway</b> resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."</p> <p><sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; <b>this is the gate of heaven.</b>"</p> <p><sup>18</sup> Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place</p>	<p><b>V. 10 – Do you remember another man who upon “sleeping,” God caused or revealed something important to happen?</b></p> <p><b>V. 12 – “Stairway,” but explicitly “ramp.” It is the only time this word in Hebrew is used, and it is actually related to the word for “stair ramp” in Akkadian, which is an ancient cognate Semitic language related to Hebrew. In the context of that word, it refers to the tall stairways that lead to the top of Mesopotamian ziggurats, which are the sacred temples that connected Heaven and Earth. What image is this trying to connect to in the Biblical narrative this far?</b></p> <p><b>V. 17 – What place in the Genesis story had a type of “gate” placed to the heaven access point?</b></p>

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**Bethel**, though the city used to be called Luz.

<sup>20</sup>Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup>so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the Lord will be my God <sup>22</sup>**and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house**, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

**V. 18 – This is the first time we see/hear an image like this – oil being used in a ritual act. Remember, Genesis serves as a foundational apologetic for Israelites to make sense of their world and experiences. What foundation is it laying for the practices of Israel post this event throughout the Old Testament?**

**V. 19 – “Bethel,” literally meaning “House of God.”**

**V. 22 – This is the most explicit scene establishing the foundation of the “temple/tabernacle” being the House of God, and then connecting it back to Eden, and them being the Heaven and Earth meeting place.**

**V. 22 – “Tenth” – This is reinforcing a concept established in Chapter 14 – what is it?**