

Lesson I.

JACOB'S VISION AND GOD'S PROMISE

April 7, 1907

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The present Lesson is close-linked with Lesson XI. of the First Quarter (ch. 27), which ends with Rebekah's counsel to Jacob, to flee to her brother Laban, to Haran, Rebekah's own old home (chs. 11 : 29; 24 : 15), until Esau's anger should be past. She wins Isaac's consent to the scheme, by pretending to be alarmed lest Jacob should take a wife, as Esau had done (ch. 26 : 34, 35), from among the heathen people about them, ch. 27 : 46.

GOLDEN TEXT—Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest.—Genesis 28 : 15.

Memorize vs. 13, 14.*

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 28 : 1-5, 10-22.

Read

Genesis 27 : 46 to 28 : 42.

1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.

2 Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.

3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padan-aram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

10 And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.

11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

13 And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father,

Revised Version—¹company of peoples; ²of thy sojournings, which; ³one; ⁴the; ⁵it under his head; ⁶whithersoever thou goest; ⁷under his head; ⁸Omit called; ⁹up.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I. B. R. A.)—M.—Jacob's vision and God's promise, Gen. 28 : 1-5, 10-22. T.—The promise fulfilled, Gen. 35 : 1-15. W.—"I am with thee," Isa. 41 : 8-14. Th.—Safe keeping, Deut. 31 : 1-8. F.—Present to save, Jer. 30 : 7-11. S.—"My Refuge," Ps. 91. S.—"My Helper," Ps. 121.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE DEPARTURE.—1-5. **Isaac**; now old and practically blind. **Called Jacob**; falling innocently in with Rebekah's crafty scheme. **Blessed**



BETHEL AS IT NOW APPEARS

him. The "blessing" (see ch. 27 : 28, 29), though got by fraud, now belonged to Jacob and is here in substance repeated. **Thou shalt not**, etc.;

an echo of Rebekah's words, ch. 27 : 46. **Go to Padan-aram**; "the field of Aram", the region on the northern Euphrates in which Haran was situated. **God Almighty bless thee**. Isaac's blessing given to Jacob, as did the blessing of Abraham (compare chs. 17 : 1-8; 22 : 15-18), includes the promises of numerous descendants; and the complete possession of Canaan. **Sent away Jacob**; who must now have called bitterly to mind his former deception of his father. **The Syrian**; Hebrew, "Aramean", that is, a native of Aram.

II. THE VISION.—10-12. **From Beer-sheba**; in the far south, mentioned as Isaac's dwelling place in Gen. 26 : 23. **Toward Haran**. See, Geography Lesson. **A certain place**; Bethel, v. 19. (See, Geography Lesson.) **One of the stones** (Rev. Ver.). **for his pillows**. The ground was covered by large sheets of bare rock, with fragments standing up here and there like the monuments of the ancient Druids in Britain. **Lay down to sleep**. It is no hardship for an Oriental to sleep in the open air. The hardship was the loneli-

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lessons are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflets.