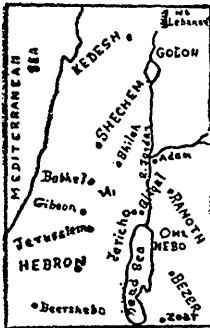


to waken it. The land ; the blessing of great possessions. Thy seed . . . dust ; the blessing of great prosperity. In thee . . . all the families . . . blessed ; the blessing of being a blessing. These three blessings are prophetic largely. With thee . . . keep thee . . . bring thee ; the personal blessing of God's following, guarding, completing presence. Will not leave . . . until I have done. God will perfect the promises for Jacob and perfect Jacob for the promises.

16, 17. Surely. Jacob's first feeling is astonishment that a lonely heart and a lonely place could know so much of God. Lord . . . in this place. God's meeting places are where we least expect. He was afraid. Awe follows hard on surprise. How dreadful ; how full of dread and awe. The house of God . . . the gate of heaven. Jacob learns that there is a lonely gate, as well as a "Beautiful" gate into God's temple.

III. THE VOW.—18-20. Took the stone . . . for a pillar ; as a memorial stone of God's mercy. Poured oil ; as a consecrating offering. Lux. This place is near Bethel. Jacob vowed a vow. His feelings take a definite turn. II. The vow has conditions based on what God has already promised. If God will be with me. He asks for divine companionship, for divine protection, for divine provision, for divine home bringing in peace. Shall the Lord be my God. In return he will acknowledge God as his God. This stone . . . shall be God's house ; shall be his witness to God. I will surely give the tenth ; acknowledge God in gifts of substance. The tenth afterwards became a national obligation to God (see Lev. 27 : 30-33).

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



BETHEL lies in central Palestine about fifteen miles north of Jerusalem and midway between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan. We read of it in connection with the lives of Abraham and Jacob. It was not a town or peopled place like Lux near by. In the troublous times when there was no king, it was to Bethel that people came to seek the counsel of God.

In the later history of Israel, we read that Jeroboam placed in Bethel one of the two golden calves, to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem unnecessary for the people of the Northern Kingdom.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. For what two reasons did Jacob leave home ? .....
2. What was God's personal promise to Jacob ? .....
3. What symbol did Jacob set up and what vow did he make ? .....

SIGN NAME HERE.....

## LESSON QUESTIONS

10, 11 What place did Jacob leave? To what place did he journey? What does "lighted upon" mean? Why did he spend the night in the place? What did he have for a pillow?

12 What happened in his sleep? What thing did he see? How far did it reach? What beings did he see? What were they doing? Where does Jesus speak of this? (John 1:51.)

13-17 Who stood beside him? What did God call himself? What promise did he make regarding Jacob's seed? In whom are all the promises of God Yea and Amen? (2 Cor. 1:19, 20.) What did Jacob say when awakened? Why did he say the place was "dreadful"?

18-23 What did he do with his pillow? What did he pour on it? What did he call the place? What did he ask God to do in his vow? What was Jacob to do in return? What does the Bible say about paying vows? (Eccles. 5:4, 5.)

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it required of Christians that they give a tenth to God?
2. Is it wrong to bargain with God?

## A PRAYER

We thank thee, Father, that we do not need to be afraid of thee, but that we can come to thee at all times in perfect confidence and trust. Thou art our Father and we are thy children. Make us thy obedient children, so that it will always be pleasure to think of being in thy presence. By day or by night, at work or in seasons of recreation, teach us how to keep close to thee and to live for thee only, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That we cannot escape from God.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 35. What is sanctification? A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

The Question on Missions—7. How do the prairie Indians spend the summer? Much time is spent in traveling, visiting, and digging senega root, which they sell for a good price. Later in the summer, they make hay for winter feed and assist in harvesting. The more civilized Indians spend the summer on their farms much the same as white farmers.