

Lesson VII.

JACOB FLEEING FROM HIS ANGRY BROTHER
November 17, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Esau purposed to take revenge on Jacob for his deceit. Rebekah learning of it, and seeing that Jacob must leave home for safety for a season, proposes that he be sent to her father's home that he may get a wife from among her father's people. Chs. 27 : 30 to 28 : 10.

GOLDEN TEXT—He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us after our iniquities.—Psalm 103 : 10 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize Matt. 25 : 40.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 28 : 10-22.

10 And Ja'cob went out from Beershe'ha, and went toward Har'an.

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, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed:

14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee

Revised Version—one of; the; it under his head, and lay; Lord, the God; whithersoever thou goest; under his head, and set; Omit called; up for.

in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have one that which I have spoken to thee of.

16 And Ja'cob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.

17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

18 And Ja'cob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

19 And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

20 And Ja'cob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace: then shall the Lord be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jacob fleeing from his angry brother, Gen. 28 : 10-22.

Th.—Moses fleeing from danger, Ex. 2 : 11-22.

T.—Jacob blessed before fleeing, Gen. 27 : 46 to 28 : 9.

F.—Jonah fleeing from God, Jonah 1 : 1-17.

W.—Jacob's flight to Haran, Gen. 29 : 1-20.

S.—The all-seeing providence, Ps. 139 : 1-12.

S.—God's infinite mercies, Ps. 139 : 14-24.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE VISION.—10, 11. Jacob went out from Beer-sheba; a city at the extreme south of Palestine, where Jacob's parents dwelt. Toward Har'an; to Rebekah's people. From Beersheba to Har'an was over 500 miles in a northerly direction. The position



BETHEL AS IT NOW APPEARS;

of Haran on the main trade route from Babylonia to the Mediterranean gave to it great commercial importance. He goes as a fugitive, alone, without a caval-

cade of camels or presents, having only a staff in his hand. His discipline is beginning. Lighted; reached by chance not design. Our chances are God's design. God waits where Jacob chances to come. A certain place; "the place," probably signifying either the place which God had appointed or the place henceforward to be famous from God's appearance to Jacob. It was a lonely spot with no traveling accommodation. The sun was set; must pass the night there. Took of the stones . . . lay down . . . to sleep; without fire, friends or tent, and with thoughts of a wronged brother, a deceived father, a far off mother,—poor preparation for happy dreams.

12. He dreamed; like the lad Joseph, ch. 37 : 5-10. (Compare Job 33 : 14, 15; Jer. 23 : 23.) Behold a ladder; rather a staircase, suggested, perhaps, "by the appearance of the hill of Bethel something like a huge flight of steps." Top . . . reached to heaven; heaven and the lonely place joined by it. Angels . . . ascending and descending; not only a vision of heaven but visitants from heaven.

II. THE PROMISES.—13-15. The Lord stood above it; rather "beside him" or "bending over him," in personal interest. The Lord God of Abraham . . . and . . . Isaac; turning Jacob's mind to God's past faithfulness. God speaks in mercy to Jacob, not in reproach. God does not wait for penitence. He seeks

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.