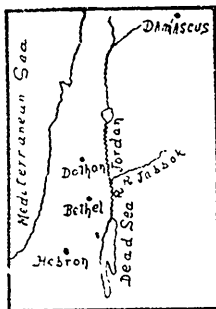


crowded gateway of some Eastern town, the place of gathering for the people, where buying and selling were carried on.

III. JACOB'S VOW.—18-22. Stone . . for a pillar. The "pillar" was a sacred stone set up as a memorial of God's appearance (compare Ex. 24 : 4 ; Josh 24 : 27). Tradition says that the Stone of Scone, now under the British Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey, is the stone set up by Jacob. **Poured oil** ; the usual symbol of being set apart to God. Jacob may have carried the oil, in a small skin bag, as a medicine or for food in case of need. **Vowed a vow** ; "took a pledge," as we should say, which would fix his purpose and keep it before his mind. **God's house** ; a place recognized and honored as a special seat of God's presence. **Bethel**. See Geography Lesson. **Tenth**. So the Jew was expected to give a tithe or tenth of his income to God (see Mal. 3 : 10).

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



BETH-EL meaning "House of God" was a city about 12 miles north of Jerusalem. Its site is now occupied by the village of Bētin. Here Abraham built an altar and worshiped Jehovah when he first entered Canaan (Gen. 12 : 8), and he visited this sanctuary for a second time on his return from Egypt, Gen. 13 : 3, 4. At Bethel, Jacob met God, while he was fleeing to Haran (Gen.

28 : 10-22), and here God appeared to him when he was coming back to Canaan, Gen. 35 : 9, 13, 15.

LESSON QUESTIONS

10, 11 Where was Beersheba ? Where Haran ? What was the distance between the two places ? Describe Jacob's route on leaving Beersheba. Explain "a certain place."

12 Give an account of Jacob's dream. By what may its form have been suggested ? What facts did it picture ? What reference did Jesus make to the "ladder ?" Tell of two dreams of Joseph, the husband of Mary, our Lord's mother. (Matt. 1 : 20 ; 2 : 13.)

13-15 Who stood beside Jacob ? What inheritance was promised to Jacob and his descendants ? How numerous were these descendants to be ? What further promise does v. 14 contain ? Explain what is the complete fulfilment of this promise. Give the fourfold promise of v. 15.

16, 17 Where alone had Jacob thought that God was to be found ? What did he now learn ? What did Jesus teach about the worship of God ? (John 4 : 21-24.)

18-22 What symbol of God's appearance to him did Jacob set up ? What vow did he make ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Should we pay any attention to dreams in guiding our lives ?
2. Is the law of the tithe now binding on Christians ?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Browning, in his *Paracelsus*, makes the hero say :

"I see my way as birds their trackless way.
I shall arrive ! What time, what circuit first,
I ask not : but unless God send His hail
Or blinding fireballs, sleet or stifling snow,
In some good time, His good time, I shall arrive :
He guides me and the bird. In His good time."

The guarantee,—it is the only one, but it is certain,—that our life journey will have a happy ending is our choosing God as our protector and guide.

Prove from Scripture—*That God's servants enjoy His presence.*

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment ?* A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

The Question on Missions—2. When were Protestant missions first established in Formosa ? In the seventeenth century by the Dutch. This work was carried on among the Formosan aborigines, as there were then many fewer Chinese in the island. At one time the converts of the Dutch mission are said to have numbered several thousand.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 474 (Supplemental Lesson), 304, 320, 14 (Ps. Sel.), 301 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 308.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Whither was Jacob going and wherefore ?

2. Where did he have his dream and vision and what were these ?

3. What symbol did he set up and what vow did he make ?