

## Lesson X.

## JACOB AT BETHEL

September 8, 1301

Gen. 28: 10-22. Vs. 10-19 only printed, as recommended by International S.S. Lesson Committee. Commit to memory vs. 13-15. Read Genesis chs. 27 and 28.

10 And Ja'cob went out from Be'er-she'ba, and went toward Ha'ran.

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 <sup>2</sup>that place, and put <sup>3</sup>them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he dreamed, and beheld 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

**Revised Version**—1 One; <sup>2</sup> The; <sup>3</sup> It under his head; <sup>4</sup> The; <sup>5</sup> Whithersoever; <sup>6</sup> Under his head; <sup>7</sup> The city was Luz.

## GOLDEN TEXT

Gen. 28: 18. Surely the Lord is in this place.

## DAILY READINGS

- M. — Gen. 28: 1-9. Jacob leaving home.  
T. — Gen. 28: 10-22. Jacob at Bethel.  
W. — Gen. 27: 6-17. Rebekah's false counsel.  
Th. — Gen. 27: 18-29. Jacob's deception.  
F. — Gen. 27: 30-40. Esau's sorrow.  
S. — Gen. 35: 1-15. The promise repeated.  
S. — Isaiah 41: 8-14. God's presence.

## CATECHISM

Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, and the Lord's supper.

and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee <sup>5</sup>in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done 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 <sup>6</sup>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 <sup>7</sup>that city was called Luz at the first.

## TIME AND PLACE

The margin of our Bibles says B.C. 1760, when Isaac was 136 years old, and Jacob and Esau about 76; young men for those days. The place: the family home at Beer-sheba.

## LESSON PLAN

- I. Jacob Driven from Home, 10.  
Through his own greed and trickery.  
II. Receives a Message from Heaven, 11-15.  
Seeing the angels coming and going, and hearing God's voice.

III. Makes a Solemn Vow to God, 16-22.

Of fealty, worship and service.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 301; 134; 103 (Ps. Sel.); 279; 277; 223.

## EXPOSITION

**Connecting Links**—When Isaac became feeble through advancing years, he wished to bestow his patriarchal blessing upon Esau, his favorite son. But Rebekah determined to secure the blessing for her favorite Jacob, who had already, by a fool's bargain, obtained the birthright from Esau, ch. 25: 27-34. With his connivance, she deceived Isaac and secured the blessing for him, ch. 27. Esau determined to put Jacob to death (27: 4), who fled for his life to Padan-aram. Early in his journey he came to Bethel where, in sleep, he saw the vision of the lesson.

## I. Jacob Driven from Home, 10.

V. 10. *Jacob went out from Beer-sheba.* His father sent him out to seek a wife among his kinsmen, but his mother to escape the wrath of Esau. He is really driven from home by his own wrong-doing. *And went toward Haran.* (See Dictionary for the Quarter, p. 326.) Here Terah, Abraham's father, had died (11: 32). Here Rebekah lived before her marriage (28: 5).

## II. Receives a Message from Heaven, 11-15.

V. 11. *And he lighted upon a certain place*

*and tarried there all night.* "This would be the second or third evening of his flight." (Dods.) Overtaken by night, he lay down to sleep in the field, perhaps being at some distance from any house, and unwilling to enter as a stranger. His coming to that place was providential, not accidental. It was already distinguished as the place of Abraham's altar (12: 8). *He took one of the stones of that place . . . and put it under his head.* (Rev. Ver.) Jacob, the shepherd brother, was able to endure hardship and exposure. He was of simple habits.

V. 12. *And he dreamed.* It was not an ordinary dream, but one specially sent from God for the purpose of divine communication. *And behold a ladder—staircase—set upon earth, and the top of it reached to heaven.* The shelving rocks of the hill-sides near Bethel, rising ledge above ledge, might well constitute the framework of the dream, but the message was from God. *And behold the angels—messengers—of God ascending and descending on it.* The messengers of God, ministering servants to the heirs of salvation