

Lesson II.

JACOB AT BETHEL

April 13, 1913

Genesis 28 : 10-22. Read Genesis, chs. 28-31. Commit to memory vs. 20-22.

GOLDEN TEXT—I am with thee, and will keep thee whithersoever thou goest.—Genesis 28 : 15 (Rev. Ver.).

10 And Ja'cob went out from Beershe'ba, 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 in all places whithersoever thou goest, and will bring thee

Revised Version—one ; the ; it under his head, and the ; whithersoever thou ; under his head, and ; the city was Luz ; up.**LESSON PLAN**

- I. Jacob's Dream, 10-12.
- II. God's Promise, 13-17.
- III. Jacob's Vow, 18-22.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England)

M.—Jacob at Bethel, Gen. 28 : 10-22. T.—The safety of the righteous, Ps. 91 : 1-12. W.—Israel encouraged, Isa. 41 : 8-14. Th.—Jacob at Bethel again, Gen. 35 : 1-7. F.—Confidence in God, Ps. 62. S.—The people's vow, Josh. 24 : 22-28. S.—The Lord is thy Keeper, Ps. 121.

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 seal he hath to his own worship.**THE LESSON EXPLAINED****Time and Place**—Immediately after last Lesson ; Bethel, ten miles north of Jerusalem.**Connecting Links**—Ch. 27 : 46 to 28 : 9 describe the arrangements for Jacob's departure for Haran.**I. Jacob's Dream, 10-12.**

Vs. 10, 11. *Went out* ; in great haste (see ch. 27 : 43), to escape the wrath of his wronged brother. *Beersheba* ; at the extreme south of Palestine, on the edge of the Negeb or "south" country. It was the scene of the activities of all the patriarchs. *Haran* ; in northern Mesopotamia, the home of Rebekah and the place where Abraham had lived for a while on his way from Ur to Canaan. It was a place of considerable commercial importance, being a crossing point on the Syrian, Assyrian and Babylonian trade routes. *A certain place* ; Hebrew, "the place ;" that is, "the 'holy place' whose sanctity was revealed by

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 Sure y 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.

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), 306.**Special Scripture Reading**—Ps. 27. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)**Lantern Slides**—For Lesson, B. 968, Jacob's Dream. For Question on Missions, F. 12, Savages of Northern Formosa. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Weston, Ont., at \$2.00 a dozen.)**Stereograph**—For Lesson, Gathering Tares from Wheat in the Stony Field of Bethel (Underwood & Underwood, see page 165).

what followed." The patriarch, Abraham, had once pitched his tent and built an altar there, ch. 12 : 8. *He tarried . . . because the sun was set.* The sudden Oriental night, unpreceded by twilight, overtook him on his way before he could reach proper shelter. *He took of the stones ;* Rev. Ver., "one of the stones ;" which still lie about in profusion in that region. *Put it under his head* (Rev. Ver.) ; for a pillow. Evidently Jacob was plucky and resourceful, and knew how to adapt himself to conditions in life's struggles.

V. 12. *He dreamed.* Often in the Bible dreams are said to be the medium of divine revelations, namely, in the case of Solomon (1 Kgs. 3 : 5-15), Paul (Acts 18 : 9, 10), Pilate's wife, Matt. 27 : 9. *Behold.* The repetition of this word serves to express the wondrous nature of the dream. *A ladder ;* or "stair." The terrace-like hillsides in the neighborhood may have had something to do