

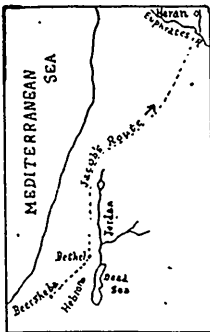
ness. **Dreamed, and behold a ladder**; "staircase", perhaps suggested by the hill of Bethel, which resembles a huge flight of steps. **Angels** ("messengers") of God. Compare 2 Kgs. 6: 17; Heb. 1: 14. **Ascending and descending.** Jacob's vision teaches God's nearness, and how swiftly He can send help and blessing. (Compare John 1: 51.)

13-15. The Lord stood above it. God, then, had not forsaken him, sinning and homeless though he was. **With thee...keep thee...bring thee...not leave thee.** These heaped up expressions would make Jacob doubly sure of God's care.

III. THE VOW.—16-22. Afraid; so Isa. 6: 5. **Poured oil**; consecrated it. **Beth-el**; "House of God," a name which supplanted the old name of **Luz**. **Vowed a vow**; made a solemn promise. **If (v. 20)...then (v. 21)**; no base bargaining with God, but thankful service in return for blessing. **The tenth**; so Abraham, Gen. 14: 20. (Compare the law of Moses, Lev. 27: 30-33.)

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Note on the map four places on Jacob's route from Hebron to Haran: First, **BEERSHEBA**, the southernmost town in Palestine; a place of importance all through the Old Testament, but in Isaac's day merely a cluster of wells on the open desert. Next, **BETH-EL** 50 miles to the northeast, across the central range of hills which forms the backbone of Palestine, on a road running from Egypt through Beersheba, and up into the heart of Palestine. Thirdly, **DAMASCUS**, the world's oldest



and most enduring city, 170 miles farther on than Bethel in the same direction. And finally, the level country about **HARAN**, 280 miles still farther to the northeast, or 500 miles from Jacob's home in Beersheba.

AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

"On the drive from Hebron," says Charles G. Trumbull, "I was led to inquire the meaning of the little single pillars of round stones (much like our cobblestones) found here and there upon the road-

side. These proved to be 'memorial stones.' Greek pilgrims to Jerusalem and the holy places of Palestine, out of gratitude to God for a safe journey thus far on the way, erect a stone."

LESSON QUESTIONS

What was Rebekah's real reason for wishing Jacob to leave home? The reason given to Isaac?

1-5 What did Isaac's blessing given to Jacob include? For what place did Jacob set out? Name a Psalm which teaches that we cannot flee from God's presence. (Ps. 139: 1-12.)

10-12 Where was Bethel? Describe the locality. What did Jacob use for a pillow? Relate his dream. What may have suggested the dream? What does Jacob's vision teach? How did Jesus use v. 12? Where is it said that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about" His people? (Ps. 34: 7.)

13-15 What did God's appearing show? What promises did He make to Jacob?

16-22 What was Jacob's exclamation on awaking? What did he do? What was his vow? Which prophet promises blessing on condition of tithing? (Mal. 3: 10.)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. How dreams come; and God's use of them.
2. What should be our rule of giving?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

In Longfellow's, Ladder of St. Augustine, we read: "Of our vices we can frame

A ladder, if we will but tread

Beneath our feet each deed of shame."

It was in this way that Jacob, the mean deceiver of his father, at last became a noble man. But there is a better way. It is to build a ladder, like Jacob's, out of all pure and holy virtues. And in this task God is ever ready to send His angels to our help.

Prove from Scripture—That the angels are our helpers.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?* A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his word.

The Question on Missions—(Second Quarter. **HONAN, MACAO and SHANGHAI**).—1. What and where is Honan? Honan is one of the eighteen provinces of China. It is situated near the centre of the northern half of the Empire, and is about as large as all Ontario as far north as Lake Nipissing.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What, likely, gave shape to Jacob's dream?.....

2. What did God promise to do for Jacob?.....

3. What did Jacob vow?.....