

queens. Whatever the world may think of them, "God is not ashamed to be called their God" (Heb. 11: 16), and he expects us to be like them. He will bless us for their sakes as he did Jacob. Read Ps. 103: 17. Be worthy of the heritage of God's blessing. Notice what God promises to Jacob, (1) the land of Canaan; (2) a numerous posterity; (3) a blessing for the world; (4) his personal protection and guidance. The last seems to be the one which Jacob felt just then to be the most precious. It is the only one of the four which we may be sure of having too. If you will make Jacob's vow of self-consecration, God will say to you also "I am with thee, I will keep thee, I will not leave thee."

III. THE VOW. 16. In Old Testament times, God did manifest himself specially in particular places, but he does not do so now. Read John 4: 20-24. Yet we ought to have reverent feelings when in a place where "prayer is wont to be made." Although God is as really present in the closet or in the workshop, as in the church, yet we are helped to a devotional frame of mind when all the associations of the place are sacred. To preserve all these aids to devotion, we should always behave reverently in church. It is the place where we ask God to meet us in worship. It is "the house of God and the gate of heaven." Jacob's fear was not terror, but reverential awe. Read Ps. 34: 11; 111: 10; Ecc. 5: 1. What is the meaning of "Bethel?" Jacob did not mean to make a bargain with God. God had already promised all he asked for. We should read "Since God has given me these gracious promises, I give myself to him, and set up this stone as a memorial of my consecration, and I will give the tenth part of all I become possessed of to him." Some of you belong to the Christian Endeavor Society, to you every consecration meeting is a visit to the stone of Bethel, a renewal of your dedication to Christ and his service. But the true Bethel for all Christians is the Lord's Table. There we remind ourselves of covenant obligations and claim covenant blessings. If you have, in your heart, given yourself to God, you should follow Jacob's example and set up this "pillar," i. e. confess Christ before his people and at his appointed ordinance.

**To the Scholar.**—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—Why did Jacob leave home? (3)
- 2.—To whom and where was he going? (3)
- 3.—Who had built an altar at Bethel? (3)
- 4.—What did Jacob see in his dream? (5)
- 5.—What four things did God promise? (6)
- 6.—What did Jacob promise in his vow? (5)

Name.....

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory Questions in the Catechism and in addition to the Golden Text, and I was at church have recited them to I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.