

# HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 10.

MARCH 11th, 1894.

1st QUARTER.

Jacob at Bethel. Gen. 28: 10-22.

GOLDEN TEXT: "I am with thee, and will keep thee." Gen. 28: 15.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VERSES 12-14. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL 107, 131, 160, 105.

PROVE THAT—Angels help the righteous. Heb. 1: 14.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 62. What is a sacrament? Quest. 93.  
Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

## DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Gen. 28: 10-22	Gen. 27: 41-28: 5	Gen. 35: 6-15	Gen. 41: 8-14	Ps. 91	Ps. 121	Ps. 116: 7-19

Instead of the annual examination for diplomas, prizes and medals, you are invited to come up at the end of each quarter on the lessons which you have just gone over. The first quarterly examination for 1894 will be held on Saturday, March 31st, at 2 o'clock, p. m., and the same rules will be followed as at the annual (see the Syllabus). Applications for question papers should be sent immediately to the convener of the S. S. Committee. Those who take this examination need not come up to the annual; diplomas, &c. will be awarded on the aggregate marks of all four.

## HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—Read the story in chapter 27. Who prompted Jacob to deceive his father? How did they guard against detection? Did Isaac seem suspicious? What did Esau say when he found that he had been cheated a second time? What revenge did Esau plan against Jacob? What did Rebekah propose to Jacob to do? How did she get Isaac to agree to her wishes?

LESSON PLAN. I. The Dream. vs. 10-12. II. The Promise. vs. 13-15. III. The Vow. vs. 16-22.

I. THE DREAM. 10. Point out Beersheba, Bethel and Haran on the map. People who resort to deceit are usually caught in their own craftiness. Jacob's dishonesty to his brother and his father is severely punished. He finds himself a fugitive from home and never sees his mother again. He started out alone with nothing but his shepherd's staff in his hand (ch. 32: 10). Yet that staff was a sign that he could do something well. You may have to earn your living some day. When the time comes for you to start out alone in life be sure you have the "staff" in your hand. Learn well the "staff" on which you are going to lean for a livelihood by and by, and by which you are going to glorify God and be a blessing to others. No doubt Jacob felt very lonely when he lay down on the hard ground with a stone for a pillow, and his prayers for pardon and guidance were very earnest (ch. 35: 3). We must take the consequences of our wrong-doing although we may be forgiven our sin. Jacob must reap what he had sown, but God is no longer angry with him, for he has shown himself really sorry, so he gives him a beautiful dream, altogether unlike ordinary dreams. Our dreams are but the shadows of our daily lives and are not worth telling over again except for amusement. But God sometimes sends comfort in dreams as well as in our waking thoughts, although he seldom gives such a glorious vision as Jacob saw. Ladder—rather "stairway." Try and tell in your own words what Jacob saw. Read John 1: 51, and show wherein the stairway resembles Christ.

II. THE PROMISE. Compare this with the blessing to Abraham, ch. 17: 4-9, and point out where they are alike. The God of Abraham . . . of Isaac—and by and by he calls himself the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Ex. 3: 6). If we have pious parents and grandparents we have more reason to be proud of our descent than if they were kings, and

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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.