

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Genesis 27:1-28:22

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

## B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

### 1. Isaac and His Boys, 25:19-34

### 2. Isaac and His Behavior, 26:1-35

#### a. The Reminder, 26:1-5

#### b. The Retrospect, 26:6-7

#### c. The Rebuke, 26:8-11

#### d. The Reaping, 26:12-16

#### e. The Redeeming, 26:17-25

#### f. The Reconciliation, 26:26-33

#### g. The Rebel, 26:34-35

### 3. Isaac and His Blessing, 27:1-46

#### a. The Unspiritual Father, 27:1-4

##### (1) Isaac's Concern, 27:1-2

##### (2) Isaac's Carnality, 27:3-4

##### (a) Stubborn Enmity

##### (b) Sensual Exercise

b. The Unsundered Wife, 27:5-10

(1) Rebekah's Decision, 27:5-7

(2) Rebekah's Deceit, 27:8-10

c. The Unscrupulous Brother, 27:11-33

(1) Jacob's Suspicious Behavior, 27:11-27

(a) His Fear, 27:11-13

(b) His Falsehood, 11:14-27

(2) Jacob's Stolen Blessing, 27:28-33

(a) The Content of that Blessing, 27:28-29

(b) The Confirmation of that Blessing, 27:30-33

d. The Unsaver Son, 27:34-46

(1) Esau's Impassioned Remorse, 27:34-35

(2) Esau's Implacable Resentment, 27:36-37

(3) Esau's Importunate Request, 27:38-40

(4) Esau's Impulsive Resolve, 27:41-46

Tonight, we begin studying the next patriarch of Israel, Isaac's son, Jacob, The Propagator.

## B. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—35:29

### 1. How God Saved Jacob, 28:1-22

#### a. Jacob's Departure, 28:1-9

##### (1) Its Immense Importance, 28:1-4

##### (a) The Word of Instruction – His Wife, 28:1-2

Gen. 28:1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.

2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.

❖ Isaac followed his father, Abraham's example, regarding a wife for Jacob.

2 Cor. 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord**, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- ❖ The principle of being equally yoked together was so important that the distance to Haran was NOT an obstacle.



❖ The family heritage began with Abraham, was passed to Isaac, and now to Jacob.

(b) The Word of Inspiration – His  
Worship, 28:3-4

Gen. 28:3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

❖ The Abrahamic Covenant would be passed from Abraham, to Isaac, and now to Jacob.

## (2) Its Immediate Impact, 28:5-9

### (a) What Esau Heard, 28:5-7

Gen. 28:5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

6 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;

7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram;

- ❖ Esau heard his father, Isaac's "charge," – "...Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;"
- ❖ Esau knew what to do, but rebelled against godly leadership and principles.

Heb. 12:16 Lest there *be* any fornicator, or **profane person, as Esau**, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

**Original Word:** βέβηλος **Transliteration:** bebélos

**Definition and Usage:** permitted to be trodden, by implication unhallowed  
permitted to be trodden, accessible.

*bébēlos* – properly, *improper*, *unauthorized* entry –  
**literally, "crossing a threshold"**  
**which *profanes* because of *improper entrance*.**

*bébēlos* ("profane because of improper entrance")  
refers to people *unfit to access (know) God*, because  
they approach Him *apart from faith*.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/952.htm>

## (b) What Esau Hoped, 28:8-9

Gen. 28:8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;  
9 Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto **the wives which he had** Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.

- ❖ Esau, a polygamist, hoped for a new wife from uncle Ishmael's family.

## b. Jacob's Dream, 28:10-17

### (1) The Far Country, 28:10-11

Gen. 28: 10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

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.

❖ Between Beersheba and Haran, Jacob stopped near Luz and slept.



❖ To consider a 500 mile trip from Albuquerque, imagine walking...

498 miles: north of Albuquerque: Loveland, CO

517 miles east of Albuquerque: Oklahoma City, OK

484 miles west of Albuquerque: Hoover Dam; Las Vegas, NV

475 miles northwest of Albuquerque: Salt Lake City, Utah

<https://withinhours.com/500-miles-of-albuquerque-nm>

❖ The setting of Jacob's experience of dreaming about a unique ladder was an inauspicious place, reminding us that we can also have a special encounter with God when we least expect it.

## (2) The Fresh Covenant, 28:12-15

### (a) What God Proved to Jacob, 28:12

Gen. 28:12 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.**



- ❖ This is Jacob's first known fellowship with God, an illumination of proof that the God of Abraham and Isaac is also the God of Jacob.
- ❖ The "ladder" is set on the earth, reaching up to heaven – like a mediator:

1 Tim. 2:5 For ***there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

- ❖ The ladder is a foreshadowing of the Incarnation:

Jn. 1:50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.**

❖ Jesus is the ONLY mediator for mankind. False religion claims otherwise:

**“Mary is therefore our Advocate, Co-Redemptrix and the Mediatrix of all Graces.”**

[https://eternallycatholic.com/why-is-mary-the-co-redemptrix-and-mediatrix/#:~:text=Mary%20is%20called%20“Mediatrix”%20because%20all%20grace%20comes,the%20words%20of%20Our%20Lord%20on%20the%20Cross](https://eternallycatholic.com/why-is-mary-the-co-redemptrix-and-mediatrix/#:~:text=Mary%20is%20called%20%22Mediatrix%22%20because%20all%20grace%20comes,the%20words%20of%20Our%20Lord%20on%20the%20Cross)

(b) What God Promised to Jacob, 28:13-15

Gen. 28:13 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* 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.

❖ Jacob, confronting God on God's term via a dream received life changing promises:

- The voice of God is speaking to Jacob about the *Lord, land, and life*.

### (3) The Firm Conviction, 28:16-17

Gen. 28:16 And Jacob 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**.

- ❖ Jacob, the conniver, encountered God and became a convicted believer.
- ❖ Jacob admitted his ignorance, and acknowledged his spiritual perception.
- ❖ He feared God, realizing the seriousness of encountering God, the value of “the house of God” and equating it with “the gate of heaven.”

c. Jacob's Decision, 28:18-22

(1) He Acted Promptly, 28:18a “And Jacob rose up early in the morning...”

❖ Jacob was eager to begin a new day, with a new purpose in life.

(2) He Acted Purposefully, 28:18b-19

Gen. 28:18b “...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 Bethel: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first.”

❖ Jacob established a memorial of his life changing experience.

❖ He called the location *Bethel* – “*the house of God.*”

Gen. 31:13 **I *am* the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me:** now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

(3) He Acted Practically, 28:20-22

Gen. 28:20 And **Jacob 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.**

- ❖ Jacob acknowledged *the Lord's presence, the Lord's provisions, and the Lord's protection.*
- ❖ Jacob expressed a “conditional” commitment – “If.....then” – in the form of a vow.
- ❖ Jacob connected his dream with the House of God (Bethel) and added a promise to tithe, BEFORE Moses established “the law.”

## Summary

- ❖ Jacob's life altering decision included submission to his parent's standards regarding a wife, and experiencing an interruption from God.
- ❖ Jacob experienced a preview of the Incarnate Messiah, and the blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant.
- ❖ Jacob "connected the dots" regarding God, the House of God, and tithing.

## Conclusion

❖ Consider the testimony of good king Hezekiah:

2 Chron. 31:20 And thus did **Hezekiah** throughout all Judah, and wrought *that which was* **good and right and truth before the LORD his God.**

21 And **in every work that he began in the service of the house of God**, and in the law, and in the commandments, **to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.**

Psa. 84:10 For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. **I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God**, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psa. 92:13 Those that be **planted in the house of the LORD** shall flourish in the courts of our God.

1 Tim. 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in **the house of God**, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**