



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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was to pass through Jacob.

The blessing two times mentions the blessing and promise to Abraham, Isaac father, Jacob's grandfather. The blessing also was to pass to the seed of Jacob. By the way, Jacob was not married and had no children at this time. It was an act of faith that he would have children. Why you say, remember that his grandfather Abraham and Sarah did not have children until 100 and 90 years of age. What if he married a barren woman? That was not even a thought.

III- The Journey in a Nutshell:

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.*

The distance between Beersheba and Haran to which he was to travel was about 500 miles. This would take him many weeks to fully navigate. We are told in this verse of that 500 mile journey. We will see in ensuing verses the details.

We have an Esau interlude in **Gen 28:6-9**. In an attempt to make things less of a controversy with father because of his displeasure with his choice of wives he attempts to make amends by take a wife of Ishmael's descendants. The descendants of Esau are given in **Genesis 36**. Notice the verse that tells us about the nation that came from Esau. **Genesis 36:1** *"Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom."*

Perhaps now is a good time to understand why God allowed these circumstance to develop. Why did not Isaac send a servant to bring back a wife as his father had. Henry Morris in *The Genesis Record* says the following:

As to why God allowed these developments, resulting Jacob's prolonged absence from home (rather than, as in Isaac's case, the dispatch of a servant to find a wife for him), it can be said that Jacob's role in establishing the tribes of Israel required the strengthening of his character through a long period of forced dependence on God alone. He had spent many decades in a rather restrictive family situation, dominated in many respects by his mother but also affected seriously by his brother's worldliness and his father's weakness. I was essential that he get out on his won if his character and father were ever to be built into the stature which his role in God's economy would require." (p 445)

IV- From Beersheba to Bethel

The first leg of the journey was probably a couple of days and Jacob arrives in as it said, *"a certain place."* This was no accidental place. God does not lead by luck or chance. **Gen 28:10-11** *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.*



Coordinates:
Gen 28:1-5; 10-22

Sights to See:

- 1- Rebekah's choice to send Jacob away would result in her not seeing her son again. Many decisions we make have great consequences.**
- 2- The promise make by God to Abraham was sure and passed to the generations afterwards. We can trust in God's promises.**
- 3- We all at times in our lives need a fresh reawakening of our hearts toward God.**
- 4- We need to realize that God is with us even when we are running from His presence.**
- 5- Being in the holy presences of God is not a trivial thing and He is to be awed and revered.**



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We find this is the place that Abraham built an altar to worship the Lord when he arrived in Canaan. This is the place where the Abrahamic covenant was given to Abraham. **Genesis 12:7-8** *And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. 8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.*

Did Jacob know about his place? Perhaps but we are not given that indication. It was just a stopping point for him. Some have speculated that perhaps he even took a stone from the altar of Abraham his grandfather as this pillow.

V- Jacob's Ladder:

Jacob had grown up in a house of faith. He had most certainly heard the promises of God. But as it is in all ensuing generation the father of the fathers must become the faith of the children. Jacob's life would never be the same. He is going to meet God in a deeper way. He is going to experience God for himself.

Gen 18:12 *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 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.*

Remember the blessing Isaac had given him upon his departure? God gives him the same blessing. Isaac his father had experienced this in **Genesis 26:3-4** *Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Now Jacob had began a journey of deeper faith and a closer walk with God. We must stop and asks if he had not experienced a change in his circumstance would he had began to grow spiritually. At times we all need a shakeup in our lives to refocus us on the things of God.

Jacob, when he lay down to sleep, never expected what took place. He may have gone to sleep wondering about his future and if God was going to take care of him. God shows him that the agents of God are carrying out the providence of God. God showed him in the dream that He would provide.

As far as I know, he did not have anyone else with him so he was lonely as well. Sometimes we need a little solitude to, **"Be still, and know that I am God."** *Ps 46:10*

VI- Bethel- House of God

What happened within men when they experience the very presence of God. Isaiah the prophet cried out in **Isaiah 6:5** *Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*



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Notice when Jacob awakes, perhaps in the middle of the night for who could sleep after such an encounter. **Gen 28:16-19** *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. 18 And Jacob 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 Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.*

Jacob, running from his brother, ran into God in this place. He awoke and exclaimed God was here and I did not know it. Jacob my friend was running but is it impossible to truly run from God. Notice **Psalms 139:7-12** *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

Jonah ran from God and found he was even there in the belly of a whale. Onesimus ran away from his master and ran into God in the personage of the Apostle Paul recorded for us in Philemon.

VII- The Vow of Jacob:

Jacob will grow spiritually in the coming years in faith. He will also experience many failures in his life. This reminds us that God uses less than perfect people because that's all He has to use. Notice the vow of Jacob. **Gen 28:20-22** *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.*

We will conclude this Way Point with what JV McGee says concerning this:

What is he doing? He wants to trade with God. He says, "Now, God, if You will do this for me...." But God has already told him that He is going to do every one of these things for him—"I am going to keep you; I am going to bring you back to this land; I am going to give you this land; and I'm going to give you offspring." Then Jacob turns around and bargains with Him, "If You will do it, then I'll serve You."

God doesn't do business with us that way. He didn't do business that way with Jacob either. If He had, Jacob would never have made it back to that land. God brought him back into that land by His grace and mercy. When Jacob did finally come back to Bethel, he came back a wiser man. Do you know what he came back to do? To worship and praise God for His mercy. God had been merciful to him.

Many people even today say they will serve the Lord if He will do such and such. You won't do anything of the kind, my friend. He doesn't do business that way. He will extend mercy to you, and He will be gracious to you without asking anything in return. But He does say that if you love Him, you will really want to serve Him. That will be the bondage of love. It is the same kind of love a mother has for the little child. She becomes its slave. That's the way that He wants you and me. (McGee, J. Vernon: *Thru the Bible Commentary*.)