

## **God's Dwelling Place Genesis 28:10 – 29:30**

### **God's Assurance of His Protection and Provision**

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

### **God's Presence Should Drive us to Worship**

<sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

<sup>18</sup> Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel though the city used to be called Luz.

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup> so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup> and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." Genesis 28

### **God's Gracious Path**

Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. <sup>2</sup> There he saw a well in the open country, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. <sup>3</sup> When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well.

<sup>4</sup> Jacob asked the shepherds, "My brothers, where are you from?"

"We're from Harran," they replied.

<sup>5</sup> He said to them, "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?"

"Yes, we know him," they answered.

<sup>6</sup> Then Jacob asked them, “Is he well?”

“Yes, he is,” they said, “and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep.”

<sup>7</sup> “Look,” he said, “the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture.”

<sup>8</sup> “We can’t,” they replied, “until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep.”

<sup>9</sup> While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was a shepherd. <sup>10</sup> When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of his uncle Laban, and Laban’s sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle’s sheep. <sup>11</sup> Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. <sup>12</sup> He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father.

<sup>13</sup> As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister’s son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things. <sup>14</sup> Then Laban said to him, “You are my own flesh and blood.”

### **Laban’s Offer and Deception**

After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, <sup>15</sup> Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”

<sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah had weak<sup>(a)</sup> eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. <sup>18</sup> Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”

<sup>19</sup> Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.”

<sup>22</sup> So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. <sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

<sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”

<sup>26</sup> Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. <sup>27</sup> Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

<sup>28</sup> And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. <sup>29</sup> Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. <sup>30</sup> Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years. Genesis 29

1. We need to establish altars of remembrance.
2. We need to grow in our trust for God.
3. God is faithful to his promise.