

Jacob's Exile and Return

Quote:

"For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye."

Deuteronomy 32:9-10

The vision at Bethel - Genesis 28:10-15

Genesis 28:10 - Beersheba to Haran is a journey of about 480-500 km.

"Beersheba" - Means - the Well of the Covenant.

"Haran" - signifies Enlightenment.

Genesis 28:11

"lighted on a certain place" - Bethel - about 70 km from Beersheba. Bethel had been a significant place in the life of Abraham (**Genesis 12:8; 13:3**). Bethel means "house of Ail", and it is here that Jacob sought to go.

Genesis 28:12

"a ladder set up on earth, and the top reached to heaven" - Dr Thomas - Elpis Israel p270-71 "The ladder, then, in Jacob's vision was representative of his seed in their generations and appointed times. One end of it was in his loins; the other, in the Lord Jesus when he should sit upon his throne, reigning over the land upon which Jacob was asleep."

Christ identified himself with this ladder - **John 1:51**. He is the way of access to the heavenly places (**Col 3:1-2**). No man comes to the Father but by him (**Jn 14:6**).

"angels of God ascending and descending on it" - Dr Thomas continues - "But upon this ladder of ages and generations, with Jacob at the bottom and his seed, the Shiloh, at the top, "the angels of God were seen ascending and descending." This

Genesis 28-30 - Jacob's Family Life in Haran

28:1-5 - Isaac sends Jacob to Padan-aram

28:6-9 - Esau marries a daughter of Ishmael

28:10-15 - Jacob's vision at Bethel

28:16-22 - Jacob's response and vow Mark the chapter breakdown by the verses noted

29:1-8 - Jacob at the Well of Haran

29:9-14 - Jacob meets Rachel and Laban

29:15-20 - Jacob serves Laban for Rachel

29:21-25 - Jacob deceived into marrying Leah

29:26-30 - Jacob again serves Laban for Rachel

29:31-35 - Birth of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (Leah)

30:1-8 - Birth of Dan, Naphtali (Bilhah — Rachel's maid)

30:9-13 - Birth of Gad, Asher (Zilpah — Leah's maid)

30:14-21 - Birth of Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah (Leah)

30:22-24 - Birth of Joseph (Rachel)

30:25-36 - Jacob bargains for Laban's flocks

30:37-43 - Jacob's increasing prosperity

Genesis 31-33 - Jacob's Return To The Land Of Promise

31:1-18 - Jacob plans to leave Laban secretly

31:19-21 - Rachel steals her father's images

31:22-24 - Laban's pursuit

31:25-35 - Laban rebukes Jacob but fails to find the images

31:36-42 - Jacob reproaches Laban for his harshness

31:43-55 - The covenant between Jacob and Laban

32:1-2 - Jacob's vision at Mahanaim

32:3-5 - Jacob's message to Esau

32:6-8 - Jacob's fear of Esau

32:9-12 - Jacob's prayer for help

32:13-23 - Jacob's precautions

32:24-32 - Jacob's contest with the angel

33:1-11 - Jacob and Esau reconciled

33:12-16 - Jacob's distrust of Esau

33:17-20 - Jacob's altar at Shechem

represented to him that the affairs of his posterity, natural and spiritual, in all their relations with the world, would be superintended by the Elohim, who would pass to and fro between earth and heaven, in the performance of their work." See [Heb 1:14](#).

[Genesis 28:13](#)

"behold" - an expression of surprise.

"the LORD stood above it" - ie the ladder reached Yahweh (He Who Will Be manifested in the Lord Jesus). It points to the time when Christ and those in him will have had Yahweh's name named upon them ([Phil 2:9](#); [Rev 3:12](#)), and will be partakers of divine nature (immortality - [2 Pet 1:4](#)), ruling in the political heaven of the Kingdom of God ([Rev 4:1](#)).

[Genesis 28:15](#)

"I am with thee" - Paul outlines what this means - "if God be for us, who can be against us?" ([Rom 8:31-39](#))

"and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest" - This promises preservation. The same promise is given to all those who seek God in truth - [Isa 54:17](#).

"I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" - ie until he is restored to the land ([v13](#)), his influence has spread to all nations ([v14](#)), all nations blessed through his seed ([v14](#)), he has inherited the land for ever with his seed, and a spiritual seed as the dust of the earth is developed ([v14](#)).

Laban: The Syrian - Characterised by Deception and Covetousness

Mark this section above
and below Genesis 29 or 30

Although Laban had a religious inclination (evident from [Gen 31:29, 53](#) and possibly [Gen 24:29-31](#)), the real motivating force in his life was the love of money:

- He ran to meet Abraham's servant when he saw the gold ([Gen 24:29-30](#)).
- He was the first to receive gifts from Abraham's servant - ie before her mother ([Gen 24:53](#)).
- He ran to meet Jacob (doubtless remembering the gifts from the last meeting with Abraham's family) ([Gen 29:13](#)).
- Assumes Jacob will serve him ([Gen 29:15](#)).
- Deceived Jacob in giving him Leah to wife, and in so doing gained another 7 years service from Jacob ([Gen 29:23,27](#)).
- Sought Jacob to remain with him because Jacob's presence had brought him material blessings ([Gen 30:27-28](#)).
- He secretly removed removed all the spotted and ringstraked breeding stock - ie thus trying to rob Jacob of a means of income ([Gen 30:32-36](#)).
- His daughters hated his greed ([Gen 31:15](#)).
- Pursued after Jacob, but stopped from deceptive conduct by God (literal meaning of "either good or bad" in [Gen 31:24](#) is 'don't pretend to greet Jacob in a friendly fashion, and then turn to accuse him') ([Gen 31:23-24](#)).
- Accused Jacob of theft (the real reason he had gathered men and come on his 7 day pursuit) ([Gen 31:26-30](#)).
- Laban is himself now deceived by Rachel ([Gen 31:34](#)).
- Laban had put unacceptable conditions on Jacob's employment maximising his profits, and minimising Jacobs ([Gen 31:39-40](#)).
- He had changed Jacob's waged ten times ([Gen 31:7,41](#)).
- Feared Jacob would return to take his land ([Gen 31:52](#)).

The Children of Jacob

Colour the Children of Jacob, their meanings, and the reason for their names:

- Suggested Colouring scheme:
- Colour Children of Leah **BLUE**.
 - Colour sons Rachel **GREEN**.
 - Colour sons of Bilhah **ORANGE**.
- Colour sons of Zilpah **PURPLE**.
- Some meanings are in the margin - colour these in. In some cases we have suggested something different - mark this in your Bible.
- In the case of Benjamin. Colour his name in and the meanings in the margin. Mark the notes as the top of Genesis 35.

Son	Reference	Comments to Colour	Meaning	Mother
Reuben	Genesis 29:32	"Surely Yahweh hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me"	"See a son" (margin)	Leah
Simeon	Genesis 29:33	"Because Yahweh hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son"	"Hearing" (margin)	Leah
Levi	Genesis 29:34	"Now this time will my husband be joined unto me because I have born him three sons"	"Joined" (margin)	Leah
Judah	Genesis 29:35	"Now will I praise Yahweh"	"Praise" (margin)	Leah
Dan	Genesis 30:6	"God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son"	To judge as an umpire, or to plead the cause	Bilhah (Rachel)
Naphtali	Genesis 30:8	"With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed"	"My wrestling" (margin)	Bilhah (Rachel)
Gad	Genesis 30:11	"A troop cometh"	"troop" see Genesis 49:19 (margin)	Zilpah (Leah)
Asher	Genesis 30:13	"Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed"	"Blessed" or "Happy"	Zilpah (Leah)
Issachar	Genesis 30:18	"God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband"	"he will bring a reward", or "he will bring wages"	Leah
Zebulun	Genesis 30:20	"God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons"	"Dwelling" (margin)	Leah
Dinah	Genesis 30:21	No Comments	"Judgment" (margin)	Leah
Joseph	Genesis 30:24	"Yahweh hath added to me another son"	"He shall add"	Rachel
Benjamin	Genesis 35:16-19	Birth of Benjamin: First called "Benoni" (by Rachel). Means - "Son of My Sorrow". Typical of the sorrows Israel suffered at the birth of Christ (Matt 2:18) and as a result of rejecting Christ (see Matt 24:7-9). But also prophetic of Christ's sufferings (Isa 53 - esp v3) Then called "Benjamin" (by Jacob - his father). Means "Son of the Right Hand". Prophetic of Christ who was named by His Father (Matt 1:21). Christ was to pass through the process of "Son of Sorrow" to "Son of the Right Hand" (Acts 2:22-36).		Rachel