### Genesis

## Chapter 28

1So IsaAc called for Jacob… He blest him and said to him:  
  
 ‘You must not take a woman from among the daughters of the CanaAnites. 2Rather, get up quickly and travel to MesoPotamia, to the house of my father-in-law BathuEl, and find yourself a woman among the daughters of your mother’s brother Laban.  
  
 3‘May my God bless you, prosper you, and make you increase; for you’ll indeed become a gathering of nations. 4May He give the blessings of my father AbraHam to you and to your offspring that comes after you, so that you’ll inherit this land in which you’re living and which God had given to AbraHam.’  
  
5So thereafter, IsaAc sent Jacob away, and he went to [stay with] Laban, son of BathuEl the Syrian, who was the brother of RebecKa (the mother of Jacob and Esau) in MesoPotamia.  
  
  
6Now, Esau knew that IsaAc had blest Jacob and that after he blest him, he’d sent him away to find a wife in Syrian MesoPotamia. [And he also knew that he told Jacob] not to take a woman from the daughters of the CanaAnites… 7And that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother by going off to Syrian MesoPotamia. 8For Esau recognized that his father IsaAc viewed the daughters of the CanaAnites as evil.  
  
9As a result, he went to see IshMaEl (son of AbraHam) and he took MaEleth (IshMaEl’s daughter and NabeOth’s sister) to be another one of his wives.  
  
10Meanwhile, Jacob had left the Well of the Promise and traveled to Haran. 11And when he reached a certain place, he decided to sleep there, since the sun had gone down... So he chose a stone and placed it under his head, then he went to sleep in that place 12and he started to dream.  
  
Well, {Look!} [in the dream] there was a stairway fastened to the ground that reached all the way into the heavens… And the messengers of God were ascending and descending upon it!  
  
13Then [he saw] Jehovah standing at the top of it, who said this to him:  
  
 ‘I am the God of your father AbraHam and the God of IsaAc.  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, for I’ll give the land where you’re now lying to you and to your offspring. 14For your offspring will become as many as the sands of the earth… They’ll spread from the sea to the north, south, and the east. And through you and your offspring all the tribes of the earth will be blest.  
  
 15‘Look; I am with you! [I’ll] always keep you safe no matter where you may go… And then i will return you to this land. I will never leave you until I’ve done everything that I said I’ll do for you.’  
  
16And when Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said:  
  
 ‘Jehovah is here and I didn’t realize it.’  
  
17Well, this frightened him, and he said:  
  
 ‘What a fearful place! For this is nothing other than the House of God and the Gate to Heaven!’  
  
18So after Jacob got up in the morning, he took the stone on which he’d laid his head and erected it as a pillar. Then he anointed it with oil, 19and he named that place, The House of God (BethEl). (Before that, the city had been called UlamLuz.)  
  
20There Jacob made a vow to Jehovah, saying:  
  
 ‘If You’ll be with me and guard me throughout this journey, giving me enough bread to eat and clothes to wear, 21and then You bring me back safely to the house of my father; you will be my God.  
  
 22‘Also, this stone that I’ve erected as a pillar will be a House of God to me, and I’ll return 1/10th of everything that You give to me.’