

JACOB AND HIS STONE PILLOW

(Gen. 28:10-19)

Isaac had reached the age of when his eyes were dimmed and the thought of death approaching. He favored Esau, his older son, for his hunting skills and his know how to cook an appetizing meat to satisfy him. He was partial to Esau; but Rebekah loved Jacob. So he called Esau and ordered him to go hunt game for him, so that he would bless him as his firstborn before his death. But other ears were listening to Isaac's order and things did not happen as Isaac planned. At the command of his mother, Jacob got involved in a scheme she planned, to make him the heir of the blessings instead of Esau. This is not a story with a beautiful picture. When Rebekah was expecting the twins, she was told by God that two nations were in her womb, and the separation of two peoples had begun in her body; the one people were going to be stronger than the other, and that the elder was going to serve the younger (Gen. 25: 23). So Rebekah felt that then was time for Jacob to fulfill the prophecy through her deceptions. As a result, Jacob had to flee home to escape death from his brother for having stolen all the blessings from him. He was sent to his parent's family far away in the land of Haran, approximately five hundred miles from Beersheba, where he lived.

Jacob left home to the destination suggested to save his life. His life was not going to be the same ever again; neither would he see his mother. He had a lot of time to think through what he had done to bring his life on a line of a fugitive. Although it was not his idea, he had the choice not to follow his mother's suggestion, since he was of age (seventy-seven) and smart enough to understand that his decision would bring him consequences. But Jacob was an opportunist and crafty to get what he wanted. One thing he always wanted was Esau's blessings of firstborn. He then stole it with a bowl of soup when Esau was faint with hunger. Here now, a feud started that cost many lives throughout the centuries to this day. We have a woman to thank her for.

It was a long journey. But when Jacob thought it to be over for him, God came to rescue him. Jacob's first stop, just before the sun set was in a place where there were several stones. He took one and used it as a pillow. That must have been a very special stone. When he laid his head on it, he soon fell asleep. It was as if it was the most comfortable pillow Jacob had laid his head on. And a dream came to him of a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the Lord stood over and beside him and said, I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; I will give to you and to your descendants the land on which you are lying. And your offspring shall be as the dust or sand of the ground, and you shall spread abroad to the west and the east and the north and the south; and by you your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed and bless themselves (Gen. 28:11-14). God had come to Jacob in a dream with great spiritual and prophetic significances. He saw a ladder that reached heaven; in it the angels or messengers of God ascended and descended. The ladder is the means of unifying heaven and earth through the Son of God; He is the Way the Truth, and the life (John 14:6). Angels were carrying the message of the covenant made to Abraham and Isaac and was ratified to Jacob, as the beneficiary. Through

him as well as Abraham all the nations would be blessed in YAHSHUA'S life, Who was going to come from the line of Jacob. Jacob understood one thing from that dream: surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it; this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gateway to heaven (Gen. 28:16-17).

Jacob left the place energized. Before he left however, he took the **stone** he had put under his head, and he set it up for a **pillar**, and he poured **oil** on its top and he named that place **Bethel** (the house of God); and this stone which I have set up as a pillar, he said, shall be **God's house**, and of all that You give me I will give the tenth to You (Gen. 28:18, 19, 22). Jacob acknowledged the prophetic significance of the stone he used to lay his head on and anointed it to be called the house of God. Stones, in Bible times had spiritual and prophetic meanings. They were used for buildings, to mark important events that took place (Gen. 28: 17; Joshua 24:22-27); they were used for weapon (I Sam 17: 48-50); they were used for a tomb's door (John 11: 41; Matt. 27: 60). Peter used the term "living stones" to illustrate the believer intimate relationship with the Lord YAHSHUA. He is the Living Cornerstone providing the strength and support of His church; He is the foundation of the Christian faith. In Him we are His living stones to declare the praises due Him. We were called out of the darkness of sin into the light of life and glory (I Peter 2:9).

God called Jacob out of the darkness of deceit to light of truth when he laid his head upon that stone which symbolized YAHSHUA, Who was to come from his lineage to fulfill the Law. He was to come as a Cornerstone for His people and His bride, the church. Much was happening at that time in God's plan that Jacob had no idea, neither understanding. All he could say was: "Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it." Thousands years later when God took the incarnate form of man, he met a man called Nathaniel of whom he said: "Here is an Israelite indeed [a true descendant of Jacob], in whom there is no guile nor deceit, nor falsehood nor duplicity! ... Then He said to him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you all, you shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man!" (John 1:46-51). Nathaniel was the only disciple of whom YAHSHUA said this. It could be that Nathaniel had come from the same lineage that YAHSHUA had come, and as a true son of Jacob, he was representing the sinless qualities of the Son of God. When YAHSHUA mentioned the Jacob's dream to Nathaniel, He was saying that in Him God was fulfilling the Abrahamic covenant He had confirmed to Jacob.

The ladder Jacob saw was YAHSHUA, who was to come to unite heaven and earth through His death. He was the bridge through Whom the world was reconciled to God. II Corinthians says, It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but canceling them] and committing to us the message of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:19). YAHSHUA said, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14: 6). If the foundation of your faith is built on someone else, then you have rejected the true Cornerstone and the foundation of true faith. The Bible says that those who have rejected YAHSHUA as their Cornerstone and foundation of faith will perish. While you still have breath, there is time for you to turn to the true Savior and Redeemer. There is no other way to heaven. Heaven is not Rome; not any or every way will take you there; only through YAHSHUA you will get to heaven!