

10.01 Jacob Leaves Home; Dreams of the Ladder (Genesis 27:41-46; 28:1-22)

✓ “Check” it out: opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher, not the student. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and/or visual aids found at the end of this lesson (Please give credit to the sources of pictures.)
- Check also “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional suggested items.
- Beka Flash-a-Cards from their Genesis Series 4 (“Jacob”) set or CEF flannelgraph

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to ascend*: to go up [Have students give examples of ascending.]
- *to descend*: to go down [Have students give examples of descending.]
- *descendants*: the children, grandchildren, etc., who come down from someone
- *ancestors*: the people above you in your family tree—your grandfathers and grandmothers
- *pillar*: a column set up to be a memorial—a place to remember
- *to devote*: to give oneself totally to someone or something
- *tithe*: one-tenth or ten percent

Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 27:41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” 42 But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran 44 and stay with him a while, until your brother’s fury turns away—45 until your brother’s anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”

46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, “You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. 2 Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. 3, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!” God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. 4 May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you 5 Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean [Syrian], the brother of Rebekah, Jacob’s and Esau’s mother.

6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, “You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women,” 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. 8 So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, 9 Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebaioth.

10 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it

reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

18 So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. 19 He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. 20 Then Jacob made 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 clothing to wear, 21 so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, 22 and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

Introduction/Review:

[Show flashcards of last week's lesson; ask students to recall the events, and have students retell the story.]

The response of Esau to Jacob's deceitful stealing of the blessing was predictable: he was so angry that he determined to slay Jacob as soon as their father Isaac died.

Story:

It didn't look too safe for Jacob in Beersheba. [Locate on map.] His brother Esau was so angry about the stealing of the blessing that he not only *thought* about killing Jacob but also *talked* about it. Somehow Rebekah learned of Esau's intentions.

Get out

"Come here, Jacob, and listen to me," she said. "Your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. So obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran and stay with him a while until your brother's anger turns away from you and he forgets what you (shouldn't Rebekah have said *we*?) have done to him. Then I will send word, and you can come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?" (✓*Both* could mean Jacob and Isaac, for Esau would slay Jacob when Isaac died.)

It seems that Isaac was not aware of Esau's plans to slay Jacob; so Rebekah came to him about sending Jacob away with a different approach. She said to Isaac, "I hate my life because of these Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

We can learn from Rebekah's statement how truly difficult it is for parents to see their children marry unwisely—for believers to marry non-believers as Esau had. (In Esau's case, he, too, was a non-believer.)

Isaac didn't need any further explanation. He called Jacob and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women. Go to Paddan-aram to the house of your mother, and take as your wife one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother."

Be blessed

✓Laban's family had, no doubt, been aware of the true God and His call to Abraham, and in some sense they respected the God of Abraham and Isaac. Perhaps that is part of the reason why Isaac and Abraham chose them to be the family of their sons' wives. Also, history tells us the wickedness of the Canaanites was abominable; ✓there might have been a genetic reason for this corruption.

Isaac then freely bestowed the blessing upon Jacob that he, being deceived by Jacob, had bestowed reluctantly before. Hebrews 11 states that Isaac blessed Jacob "by faith."

This is the blessing; listen for terms you have already heard in the Abrahamic covenant: (1) “God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, (2) that you may become a company of peoples. (3) May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, (4) that you may actually own the land where you’ve been living—the land that God gave to Abraham!”

Be on your way

“Now go on your way to Paddan-Aram, Jacob,” advised Isaac.

So Jacob set out on a long, long journey. Did he run for a while for fear of Esau’s chasing him? We don’t know; the Bible doesn’t say. Was it fearful being alone on a journey to a far country? No doubt it was, but the Bible doesn’t say Jacob was fearful. ✓It was a hard trip, especially for a man who had hung around the tents, not getting the exercise a man of the field might get.

Meanwhile, Esau, knowing his father had blessed Jacob and hearing Isaac had sent Jacob to Paddan-Aram to get a wife because the Canaanite women displeased him, did something that he might have thought would please his parents: he married a woman who was also of Abrahams family. ✓But he married into a rejected family—the family of Ishmael. He married Ishmael’s daughter. This was hardly pleasing to his parents.

Back to Jacob. Jacob walked—did not ride a donkey or camel—this long distance, for he tells us in Genesis 32:10, “With only my staff I crossed this Jordan.” ✓He probably was able to travel only about 20 miles per day at best, depending on the weather and the land formations (hills, rivers, rocks, *etc.*). If Jacob had between 450 and 660 miles to travel and he was able to keep a 20-mile-per-day pace, this trip would take him 23–33 days—about a whole month.

Dream

Early in his trip—✓about forty-eight miles from Beer-sheba (Jamieson Faussett and Brown in Online Bible) the third or fourth day—God gave Jacob a special treat. One night when the sun had gone down and Jacob was tired enough to fall asleep with a rock for his pillow, God gave Jacob a spectacular dream. ✓This, in my opinion, is one of the top ten most spectacular sights recorded in the Bible. This is the dream.

A ladder or staircase was set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. Angels of God were ascending and descending on it! But, best of all, the Lord Himself stood above the ladder and spoke to Jacob. This is what He said:

“I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your grandfather and the God of Isaac. (1) The land on which you are lying I will give to you and to your descendants.”

Hey, kids, what does this sound like? [The Abrahamic Covenant.] Yes, God is actually telling Jacob some of the same promises He told Abraham.

As I read these promises, see if you can see which are Abrahamic covenant promises repeated here to Jacob. We’ve already heard about the land being his. Listen for three more promises:

(2) “Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and (3) you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south. (4) In you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

Yay! God Himself is blessing Jacob—sinful, deceitful Jacob. But know this: God is going to change Jacob. For now, though, God adds a here-and-now blessing that will help Jacob on his journey and throughout his life. God said, “I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

What a great comforting promise! God will never leave Jacob! I love to claim that promise, for God has promised it to those who are His own. He will never leave me (Hebrews 13:5, 6).

Remember

You can believe that Jacob was impressed with this amazing dream and with the presence of God and with God's promises made directly to him. He woke up and, fearing God, said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

Early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head for a pillow and set it up for a pillar. His *pillow* became a *pillar*. Jacob poured oil over the top of that pillar and called the place Bethel, which means "house of God."

Promise

Then Jacob, the cheat and heel-grabber, ✓not yet a true child of God, made a deal with God. Unlike Abraham, who had believed and devoted himself to God immediately without question, Jacob seemed to doubt. Yet, he promised, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, *then* the Lord shall be my God."

Oh, I'm disappointed with Jacob. He's saying that if God does certain things for him, *then* he will devote himself to God. This doesn't sound like a man who is truly a child of God yet.

Jacob promised two more things. This is what he said, "This stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. In other words, ✓"When I come back to this pillar in peace, I will know God has kept His part of the bargain."

The last thing: Jacob promised to give God a full tithe—one-tenth of everything he gained. ✓I don't know if Jacob meant he would give the tenth from now on or after he came back. I would guess he meant when he came back. If so, that's another indication that he still was not a true believer, for those who truly know the Lord more willingly give God at least a tenth of their income.

Will God keep His promises? Yes. Will Jacob keep his end of the deal? I hope so. What will happen when he finally gets to his Uncle Laban's house? We will find out in the next few weeks.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus: "God sent Jesus, His only Son, to be our way to Him. Jesus became Jacob's ladder, the pathway to God. Jesus said in John 14:6 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.' The only way to heaven is by faith in Jesus. He is the ladder that comes down from heaven to mankind and gives us a path to God" (<http://www.childrensermons.com/sermons/ladder.htm>).
- It's not a good idea to make deals with God. Rather, we should trust and serve Him without question.
- It's a good idea to tithe. God blesses those who honor Him with one-tenth, at least, of their money. It isn't always easy, but it is God's way. Many people can testify as to God's faithfulness as they gave a tithe. Our family had a big trip to take, for my sister was going to be married. We did not have any money for that trip. We had been faithfully tithing, but, with a young family and low income, we had nothing left over. What were we going to do? One week before we were to leave for the wedding, a pastor friend called my husband and asked him to substitute for a preacher who canceled coming to his church. Would my husband, instead of the scheduled speaker, preach every night for a week? Yes. Through the love offering of that meeting, we were able to pay our expenses for the big trip. God was faithful.
- God wants His name and work (His kingdom) spread throughout the world, but people continually reject the King. Adam sinned. Noah's descendants turned away from God. Now, through Abraham's family of faith, the church, God will establish His kingdom with a people devoted to Him.

Activities:

- Play dough: rock; ladder or staircase; angels

- Read Accent Publications' (K3B) kindergarten reader, "Jacob's Dream."
- Sing "Isaac" found at Lesson 09.01 or the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Sing the first two stanzas of "Jacob" found in Lesson 09.04 or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.
- Demonstrate a tithe with small objects like pennies, or use a chalk or white board and demonstrate the tithe by showing the movement of the decimal point to the left one place.
- Snack: Make a Jacob's ladder of pretzel sticks held together with large marshmallows. Eat.
- Do "Who Am I?" cards for Abraham, Isaac, and others that appear earlier in the Bible
- Sing "Jacob's Song" by Patsy Stevens found at the following site:
<http://gardenofpraise.com/images/jac2song.pdf>
- Sing "God Is My Best Friend" found below.
- Review questions: (Game: Each team has an angel (not provided in this lesson; a felt oval or circle might be a substitute). A correct answer allows the angel to ascend one rung on a felt ladder.)
 1. What did Esau say he would do to Jacob? [Slay him after Isaac died.]
 2. How did Rebekah convince Isaac to send Jacob away? [By saying he needed a wife but not from the Canaanites.]
 3. Name one blessing Isaac pronounced on Jacob before he left home. [Take possession of the land; God bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you; may He give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring.]
 4. What did Jacob use for a pillow? [A stone.]
 5. What did Jacob see in his dream? [Angels ascending and descending a stairway/ladder with God at the top.]
 6. Tell one thing God said to Jacob in his dream. ["I am the Lord, the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac; I will give you the land on which you lie; your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth; they shall spread to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed; I am with you and will keep you wherever you go; I will bring you back to this land."]
 7. In the morning what did Jacob do with his stone pillow? [Set it up as a pillar.]
 8. What did Jacob call his stone pillar? [Bethel—the house of God.]
 9. How did Jacob differ from Abraham concerning his devotion to God? [Abraham was immediately devoted; Jacob determined to wait until God did certain things for him before he would serve God.]
 10. Name one thing Jacob promised to do if God brought him back home. ["The Lord shall be my God; this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; I will give a tenth to God."]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Genesis 28:15—"I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

Handwork:

- Paint rocks.
- Make a paper ladder: (See pattern below for two ladders.) Because of difficulties I had in formatting, you will first need to cut off ¼ inch from the top and left sides. Cut the paper in half on center line. On the dashed lines fold accordion-style the paper into sixths. Hold the folded paper tightly as you cut on the lines. Show the folded piece as an *I* for *Isaac* or an *H* for *heaven* before unfolding and revealing the ladder.
- Make a card with a ladder and angels (found in *50 Bible Paper Pop-Ups* by Robin S. Parimore, Standard

Publishing, 1996).

ascend

descend

descendants

ancestors



pillar

devote

tithe

Isaac's Blessing to Jacob

When deceived

- **May God give you dew of heaven, fatness of earth, and plenty of grain and wine.**
- **Let peoples serve you and nations bow down to you.**
- **Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you.**

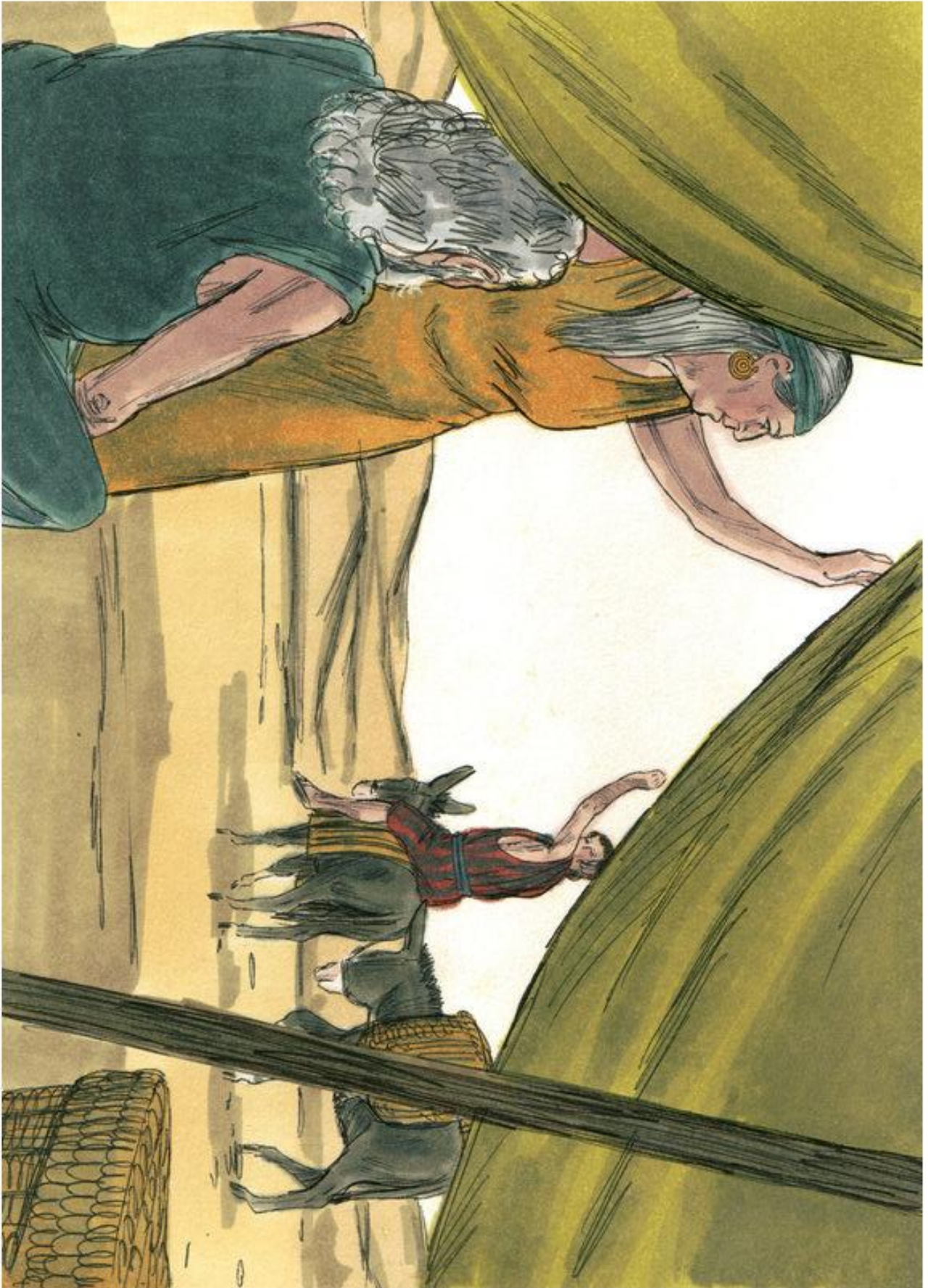
When sending him to Paddan-Aram

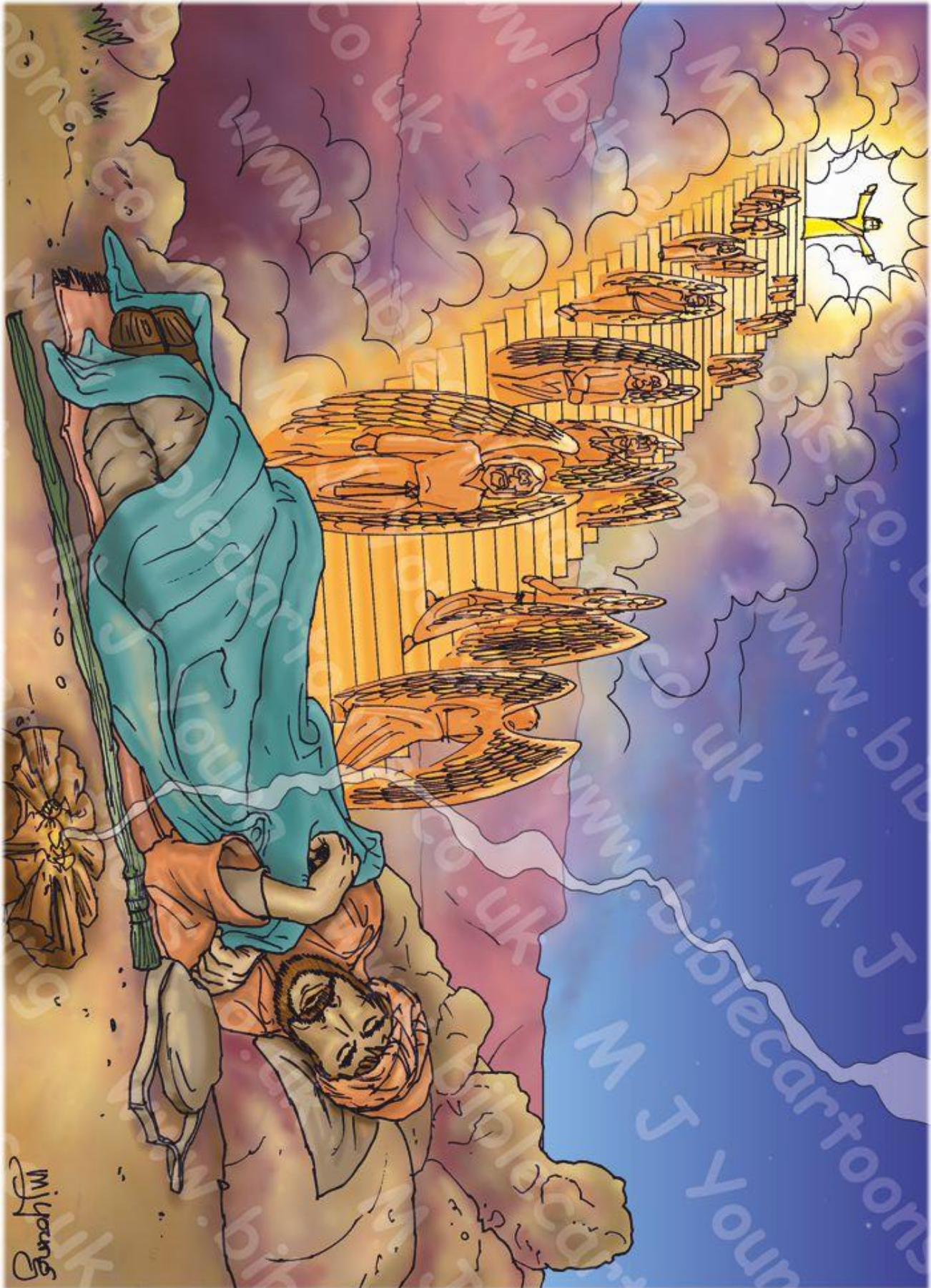
- **Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!**
- **May you take possession of the land that God gave to Abraham!**
- **God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you,**
- **May you become a company of peoples.**
- **May He give the blessing of Abraham to you and your offspring.**

God's Blessing to Jacob

At Bethel

- **I will give this land to you and to your offspring.**
- **Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south.**
- **In you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**
- **Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.**
- **I will bring you back to this land.**









present-day site where Jacob had his dream

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go” (Genesis 28:15).

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go” (Genesis 28:15).

God Is My Best Friend

Winifred Johnson

Winifred Johnson

When I go to bed at night and it's so dark with - out the light, I'll
5 not be a-fraid, for God has said, "I will nev - er leave thee." My best Friend, the
10 Lord, is there; He is with me ev - 'ry-where. He sends His an - gels for my care, and
15 He will nev - er leave me. God is my best Friend.* He will nev - er
20 leave me.* God is my best Friend, and He will nev - er leave me; and
25 He will nev - er leave me.

* Clap twice in quarter-note rhythm.