


Genesis 28: 1-22

This is a power-packed chapter about the world today. The next 8 chapters deal with Jacob because he is the father of the Jewish nation that is still here today. All the world is wondering what is going to happen in the Mideast and ultimately the world because of Israel, but this is where it all started.

KEYWORDS: IRAN, IRAQ, TERROR, MIDEAST, FAMILY, RACIAL, SIBLINGS, LIE, CHEAT, INHERITANCE

- 1 ¶ And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and instructed him, and said to him, You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.** Isaac's specific instructions to Jacob are to not take a Canaanite wife. Isaac repeats it many times because it is so important. Jacob has seen how the Canaanites lived and knew what they were all about. Archeologists today have found some Canaanite sites and discovered it was full of debauchery and degradation. They would corrupt Jacob.
- 2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take you a wife from then of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.** Isaac said he is going to send Jacob back to his wife's family town and he can find a wife there.
- 3 And God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, that you may be a multitude of people;** Isaac is reiterating the blessing God gave to him.
- 4 And give you the blessing of Abraham, to you, and to thy seed with you; that you mayest inherit the land wherein you art a stranger, which God gave to Abraham.** He starts where God started the blessing with Abraham. He wanted Jacob to understand that he was carrying something special from God with him. Isaac is giving Jacob a final blessing before he leaves, because Isaac would never see Jacob again. He instructs Jacob to conduct his life in a manner to which he has been charged.
- 5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.** Jacob leaves on his mission to go find a wife.
- 6 ¶ When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;** Notice what happens here: Esau has lost his birthright, his blessing, and he's married 2 Canaanite women. He didn't care and he was going to live his life how he wanted to. He sees Isaac giving the blessing to Jacob.
- 7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram;**
- 8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;** It begins to register in Esau's mind that he had done wrong. His wives don't fit in and never will. It causes much grief in the families.
- 9 Then went Esau to Ishmael, and took to the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.** Esau is going to get in good with his dad and go marry one of Ishmael's daughters. But that part of the family was cast out. Esau is a worldly man who is trying to figure out a religious way to get back in the good graces of his father's eyes to get some material wealth. He has no other objective other than greed.
- 10 ¶ And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.**
- 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them* for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.** Tired of traveling all day, Jacob gets a rock for a pillow and lies down and goes to sleep.
- 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.** This is the famous dream. Angels don't really need a ladder to run up and down from heaven. But God used the ladder to symbolize the connection between heaven and earth and that earthlings can communicate with heavenly beings.

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- 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon you lie, to you will I give it, and to thy seed;** As far as we know, this is the first time in Jacob's entire life that he has had a one-on-one encounter with God.
- 14 And thy seed shall be as 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 in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.** This is a statement that has come to pass. Jesus Christ came from the lineage of Jacob and all have been blessed by Jesus Christ.
- 15 And, behold, I *am* with you, and will keep you in all *places* where ever you go, and will bring you again into this land; for I will not leave you, until I have done *that* which I have spoken of to you.** God reiterates his promise to Jacob in a dream.
- 16 ¶ And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not.** Jacob didn't realize where he had laid down. The people at this time had a concept that there were certain spots on the earth that were tuned in to heaven. That's why they built temples and Stonehenge and other special places to serve as a worship spot. This is what Jacob is saying here. He found a special spot where God dwelt.
- 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! this *is* none other but the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven.** "Dreadful" in Hebrew means "awesome". Jacob believed God used this spot to come to earth with his angels and this spot should be revered.
- 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.** Anytime you see oil being anointed on something it means it is being set aside to keep for special.
- 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first.** Luz means separation. It is still there to this day.
- 20 And Jacob vowed 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 raiment to put on,** This is the first time a vow is used in scripture. Jacob is so infatuated with the dream he just had that he starts bargaining with God. He shouldn't have done this, but the bible tells the truth in these matters. This dream was equivalent to Jacob being saved. He knew about God, but we never hear of him being saved.
- 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:** Jacob says "if I can go do what I gotta do and get back home in one piece, You will be my Lord." This is not the way to do it. God is going to take care of him anyhow. God already gave him a promise. We just need to trust Him.
- 22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that you shall give me I will surely give the tenth to you.** After making his little bargain with God, Jacob vows to give a tithe to the Lord. This is before the Laws of Moses. It is an example for us to give to God to support His ministry. Everything we have is from God anyway, and we should do all we can to further the Kingdom of God.