

God Is With Jacob

Genesis 28:10-22

The Bible tells us that many, many years after Noah and his family came out of the ark; many people lived on earth once again. One of them was a young man named Jacob. He had to go on a long journey far from his home. Because there was no cars or planes or buses, he had to walk all by himself.

Everyday Jacob walked along a rough, rocky path. When nighttime came, he had to sleep OUTDOORS on the hard ground. He had no tent or sleeping bag or pillow. Each night Jacob would try to find a smooth stone he could use in place of a pillow under his head. He probably tried to wrap himself up in his coat to stay warm. This is how he slept for many, many nights.

One night while Jacob was asleep, he had a very unusual dream. In his dream, he saw a TALL ladder with one end on the ground and the other end reaching clear up into the sky, past some clouds and into Heaven! What were walking up and down the ladder in Jacob's dream? Angels! Many, MANY angels were going up and down, up and down the ladder. And way, way up past the top of the ladder was the Lord God Himself! He began speaking to Jacob in his dream.

Just to be sure Jacob would know Who was talking to him, God told him He was God. And then He made four wonderful promises to Jacob.

1. God promised that He would give all the land that Jacob had been traveling through to his children and grandchildren as a gift.
2. God told Jacob that one day he would have so many people in his family that they would live all over the world.
3. Someday, God promised, one of Jacob's family would bring a special blessing to all people everywhere.
4. God also promised Jacob in his dream that He would ALWAYS be with him and keep him safe on his long trip, and that He would help Jacob get back to his home someday.

Suddenly Jacob woke up. Jacob KNEW God had been speaking to him there in that place. He could hardly believe what had happened, but God Himself had told Jacob those things.

Jacob wanted to worship God. So Jacob made a special place to pray by setting his pillow stone upright and pouring oil on the top of it. We call this special place an altar. Who else made an altar? (Noah).

Then Jacob made some promises to God. He told God that He would always be Jacob's God, and that he would give part of all that he had to God. The Bible tells us that Jacob lived to be a very old man, but he never forgot his dream and God's special promises to him and his family. As long as Jacob lived, he worshiped ONLY the one true living God.

The Bible tells us that when Jacob awoke from his special dream, he remembered what God said to him: “I am with thee, and I will keep thee in all places” (Genesis 28:15). We can say that too, for the Bible tells us that God loves us and takes care of us just as He did Jacob.

Bible Verse to Learn

“I am with thee, and I will keep thee in all places.” (Genesis 28:15).