



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The LORD is Here!

March 29, 2020

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹²He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

1. For background, read Genesis 27:1-28:9. What are two reasons Jacob left Beersheba? **1. Because Esau wanted to kill him. 2. Because Rebekah also wanted him to marry a believer, not a Hittite.**
2. What emotions might you be experiencing if you were in Jacob's sandals? **Fear of dying (at the hands of Esau); loneliness, worry about the future, guilt over sins of the past.**

3. What parallels do you see between Jacob's situation in life and your situation in life? **The coronavirus has us separated from others, uncertain about the future, experiencing economic hardship.**
4. What parallels do you see between Jacob's state of mind and your state of mind? **Anxiety, fear, frustration, guilt.**
5. Is Jacob's dream the source of the Led Zeppelin classic rock ballad? **No. But LSD might be. And now, you probably can't get that tune out of your head.**
6. Why do you think God said what he did to Jacob? **Jacob needed reassurance. He needed to know that his sin had not separated him from God. From God's words to Jacob, it is apparent that Jacob was penitent for his sins. God wanted to give Jacob promises he could hold on to, which would strengthen his faith, even when difficulties entered his life in the future.**
7. Have you ever had an "aha" moment when you suddenly realized that God was with you? Share it. **E.g. a car crash that was narrowly avoided; a peace of mind that came over you. A major task accomplished unexpectedly, etc.**
8. Agree/disagree: God is with everyone. **God is omnipresent, there is nowhere he is not (except hell). In that sense, he is "with" everyone. He knows all and sees all. However, the unbeliever does not enjoy "fellowship" with God. God is with those who reject him, only as their righteous judge. To the believer, God is present as our loving, gracious Father, causing all things to serve our eternal good.**
9. Think of a promise that God has made to you in his Word. What effect does that promise have on your heart/life? **"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you" (Heb. 13:5) assures me that even if I walk away from God, he'll never walk away from me. "Call upon me in the day of trouble (and) I will deliver you" (Ps. 50:15) tells me that God won't get tired of my asking him for help—and he will always provide a way out. "Come to me, you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28) assures me that God will give me rest from my guilty conscience. 9:35**
10. What "good" have you already seen God work through the coronavirus crisis? **Family devotions, spiritual focus, more online outreach, appreciation for contacts from the Mount Olive family.**