
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Gen. 28:10-22	Ya'aqob's dream at Beyth El and his promise to Yahweh
Tuesday:	Gen. 29	Ya'aqob meets Rahel; Laban deceives Ya'aqob; Wages and serving for Rahel; Le'ah has 4 sons
Wednesday:	Gen. 30	More wives, more sons and a daughter; Ya'aqob wants to leave with his family; Outwitting Laban and his games
Thursday:	Gen. 31:1-21	Ya'aqob takes his portion and family and leaves; Rahel steals the house idols from her father
Friday:	Gen. 31:22 - 32:2	Laban tries to get his family and his idols back; An agreement is made between Ya'aqob and Laban

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will be covering Ya'aqob's dream and vow to Yahweh as well as Yahweh's continuation of the covenant. Now, let's read Gen. 28:10-22.

PARSHA POINTS

- Ya'aqob's brother Esaw was murderously angry over having the birthright and blessing taken from him. So, Yitshaq and Ribqah sent their younger son to live with his Uncle Laban until Esaw's rage subsided - 27:43; 28:2
- One night, Ya'aqob stopped in a place called Luz to rest and laid down a stone (**evan**) as a pillow for his head - 28:11, 19
- Ya'aqob had a dream about a ladder (**sullam**) that reached from the earth to the heavens, with messengers (**malakim**) of Elohim going up and down the ladder (Most Scriptures refer to 'messengers' as angels; however, there is no specific Hebrew word for angel) - 28:12
- In his dream, Yahweh spoke to Ya'aqob from above the ladder, as He had done to Abraham his grandfather and Yitshaq his father - 28:13-15; 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1, 7; 17:1-2, 4-8; 22:17-18; 26:3-5, 24
- Yahweh made the same covenant with Ya'aqob that He had made with Abraham and Yitshaq before him (28:13-15):
 - "I am Yahweh your Elohim"
 - "The land of Kena'an shall be for you and your seed"
 - "Your seed shall be as the dust of the earth"
 - "You shall break forth to the west, east, north and south"



- "All the clans of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your seed"
- "I am with you"
- "I shall guard you"
- "I will bring you back to this land"
- "I will be with you until I fulfill what I have spoken"
- Ya'aqob_ awoke from his sleep and exclaimed that Yahweh had been there with him, and that he hadn't known it (until that point) - 28:16
- Upon recognizing this, he became afraid and praised Elohim, acknowledging the awesomeness of the place where he was spoken to - 28:17
- In the morning, Ya'aqob_ set apart the location by taking the stone he had laid his head on and erecting it as a standing column (**matsayvah**), anointed it with oil - 28:18
- Ya'aqob_ changed the name of Luz to Beyth El, which means House of El - 28:19
- Ya'aqob_ then made a vow (**neder**) to Yahweh who was with him, who had kept him in the way that he should go, and who had given him bread (**lechem**) and clothing - 28:20
- Ya'aqob_ made a vow that when he had returned in peace (**shalom**) to his parent's home (28:21-22):
 - the stone that became a standing column would become Elohim's House
 - Ya'aqob_ would give Him a tenth (**asar**) of anything that he received from Yahweh



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- What may have been the reason for Ya'aqob's dream after he left his father's home? Was it possible that Yahweh was reassuring him that everything he did was approved and guided? Why would Yahweh choose this time to appear to Ya'aqob_ and establish His covenant through him?
- Discuss John 1:51 in relation to Gen. 28:12.
- Why do you think Ya'aqob_ was afraid after his dream? (28:17)
- Notice that in Lech-Lecha, Ya'aqob's grandfather Abraham had built an altar to Yahweh very near to where Ya'aqob_ set up the stone as a standing column and named it Beyth El (House of El). Later on, the ark of the Witness also dwelt in that same place. Was this coincidence, or something more? (28:19; 12:8; 13:3-4; also see Judg. 20:26-28)
- Look up the meaning of a 'stone' in Hebrew. How can it relate to and enrich this story's meaning? (28:18)