



#### A Certain Place

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#### **Genesis 28:1-5**

- <sup>1</sup> Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.
- <sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.
  - <sup>3</sup> "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;



<sup>4</sup> And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

#### WHERE WAS JACOB GOING?

#### WHY?

- 1. Going to find a wife
- 2. Running away from his brother Esau

#### Genesis 28:10-22

- Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.
- <sup>11</sup> So he came to **A CERTAIN PLACE** and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.
- <sup>12</sup> Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

<sup>13</sup> And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

<sup>14</sup> Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

<sup>15</sup> 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 spoken to you."



<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know *it.*"

<sup>17</sup> 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!"

<sup>18</sup> Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

<sup>19</sup> And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,



<sup>21</sup> so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

<sup>22</sup> And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

# A CERTAIN PLACE IS MORE THAN A PHYSICAL PLACE

#### John 4:21-24

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will **neither on this mountain**, **nor in Jerusalem**, worship the Father.

<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

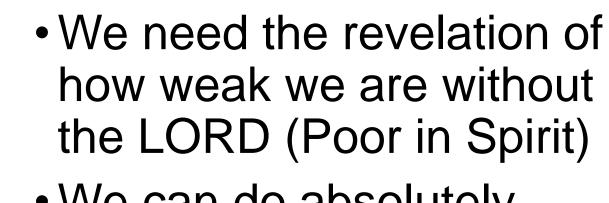
<sup>24</sup> God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

#### 1) A Place of Revelation

- It is a place we begin to see
- Do we see what we see or what God sees?
- Holy Spirit, enlighten our eyes
- Isaiah saw the LORD Woe unto me...
- God wants us to see Him that we can understand our condition
- It is a place of His dealing/Intervention
- Jacob had to become Israel



## Jacob is a Picture of Struggling In The Flesh



- We can do absolutely nothing apart from Him
- The flesh cannot please God

His name means supplanter, deceiver



#### Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

<sup>18</sup> Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

#### 2) A Place of Encounter

- We don't realise how far we have strayed until we come to the certain place.
- Don't get disappointed when things don't go our way.
   It is the Mighty Hand of God.
- Don't blame people, circumstances or God

 God who is bringing us to the certain place even when we are not looking for it.



### God leads us to this <u>certain place</u> both on a

- 1. Personal level
- 2. Corporate level

#### 3. A Place of His House (Church)

- 1. A Place of **Rest** (28:11)
- 2. A Place of Revelation (28:12)
- 3. A Place of **Promise** (28:13-15)
- 4. A Place of **Communion** (28:15)
- 5. A Place of **Encounter** (28:16)
- 6. A Place of **His Presence** (28:17)
- 7. A Place of **Open Heavens** (28:17)
- 8. A Place of **His House** (28:17)
- 9. A Place of **Worship** (28:18)
- 10. A Place of Giving/Tithing (28:22)

