



PARASHAT VAYETZEI

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Genesis 28:10-32:3

by
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& his kids


Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 28:10 Jacob Flees Canaan and His Vision at Moriah of the Ladder to Heaven
- 29:1 Jacob Meets Rachel at the Well
- 29:14 Jacob Contracts With Laban to Marry Rachel and Laban Deceives Him
- 29:24 The Morning After Jacob Discovers That Laban Substituted Leah for Rachel
- 29:31 Leah Gives Birth to Four Sons
- 30:2 Bilah, Rachel's Handmaid, Bears a Son
- 30:17 Leah's Last Three Children
- 30:22 Rachel Gives Birth to Joseph
- 30:27 Jacob Wants to Leave But Instead Formulates a New Employment Contract With Laban
- 30:25 Laban Deceives Jacob Again
- 31:1 Jacob Decides to Flee Laban
- 31:17 Jacob's Escape
- 31:22 Laban Pursues Jacob and Elohim Warns Laban Not to Pursue Him
- 31:25 Confrontation Between Laban and Jacob
- 31:44 Laban Proposes a Treaty With Jacob
- 32:1 Laban Departs

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 Exploring Biblical Prophecy


-  (a) Let's start out on our journey by reading Genesis 28:10-22. Now go to John 1:14 and 51 and read it. Explore these two Scripture passages. Search for anything in Jacob's dream that seems to be pointing to Yeshua. Both passages have something in common. What is it? What in Jacob's dream seems to be a picture of Yeshua?

The Bible is an amazing book. There is no other book like it. There are many religious books, but none like the Bible that reveal the very heart, plans and will of the Creator of the Universe. One third of the Bible is prophecy. Prophecy is where a person called a prophet under YHVH's power and inspiration foretells or predicts what will happen in the future. There are many such prophecies in the Bible. Some have come to pass already, many are yet to be fulfilled. These prophecies have to do with the nation of Israel, the people of YHVH, Yeshua the Messiah, and the whole world. Many have to do with end-time events. The end times is that period just before the second coming of Yeshua. We are living in the end times, so many biblical prophecies are being fulfilled in our day or are about to be fulfilled or come to pass.

2 YHVH Speaks to His People

In the Scriptures, YHVH speaks to men (and to women, too) in many ways. He spoke directly or face-to-face with the first humans, Adam and Eve.


 (b) Next, let's read Genesis 3:8. How did YHVH communicate with our first parents?


 (c) How did he speak to our father Abraham?
(Read Genesis 12:1; 17:1; 18:1.)

Would you like to hear the literal voice of YHVH, your Father in heaven? The young Samuel did.

 (d) Now turn to 1 Samuel 3:4 and read it. How did YHVH communicate with Samuel?


There are other ways by which YHVH talks to his servants.

 (e) Now we'll go to Numbers 12:6 and read this passage. How does YHVH say that he will speak to his servants in this verse?

 (f) Has YHVH ever spoken to you the way he spoke to Samuel or in a dream or vision?

You know what a dream is. That's what you have when you're asleep. A vision is similar to a dream, but it is more like real life. You can have a vision during the night or daytime.

 (g) Was what Jacob had in Genesis 28:12 a dream or vision?

 (h) What was YHVH trying to tell him? Remember reading John 1:51? Do you suppose that maybe this dream had something to do with Yeshua?

Remember that Jacob had this dream nearly 2000 years before Yeshua came to this earth! That would make this dream a prophetic dream—a dream that was foretelling or predicting what would happen in the future



3 Decoding the Symbolic Language of the Bible

When YHVH gives special dreams to people, he often uses symbolic language or picture-like symbols to get his message across to them. Symbolic language is like a secret code that only certain people will understand. There is a lot of this kind of secret code language in the Bible. Most people who read the Bible do not understand it. But YHVH will reveal the meaning of his hidden messages in the Bible to those who study it and seek the guidance of Elohim's Set-Apart Spirit who leads his people into all truth (see John 16:13).


What is symbolic language? If a say "door," you get an image in your mind of a literal door.



Now what if I say, "a door opened for me" and I was able to go somewhere, do something or meet someone. Am I talking about a literal physical door, or an imaginary or symbolic door? In Scripture, Yeshua says that he is the door to the sheep pen and calls you and me his sheep (John 10:1-9). Does this mean that you are covered in wool, eat grass, live in a barn and say, "baaah" and that Yeshua is a literal wooden barn door?

No, it is just a poetic or symbolic way of showing us a spiritual truth. That truth

is that we are LIKE sheep, and he is LIKE a good shepherd who loves the flock of his people. If I say, "I gave my heart to Yeshua," does this mean that I actually cut my heart out of my chest and handed it to Yeshua? Of course not. It means that my heart is a symbol of my feelings and love for something and my feelings are backed up by what I do (or actions as a result of my feelings of love). This is how I give my heart of love to Yeshua. All these are examples of symbolic language. The Bible is full of this type of language.


 (i) Look up the following Scriptures and identify the symbolic language in each one. What does it mean spiritually?


- Psalm 91:2, 4
- Matthew 5:13
- John 8:12
- John 6:48
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- Ephesians 2:22
- Revelation 1:12 and 20.

Often, YHVH talks to his people in dreams and visions using pictures and symbolic language to represent deep spiritual truths. This is the case with the dream Jacob had of a ladder to heaven.




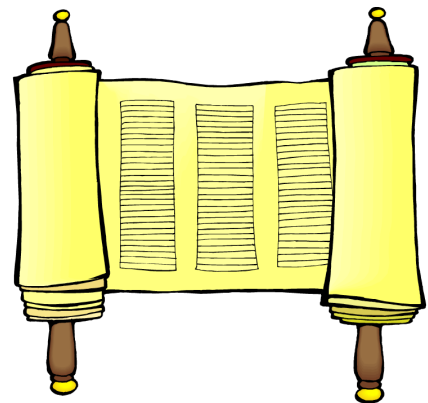
4 Jacob's Dream: What Does It Mean?




 (j) Go back and John 1:51 again. Now read John 14:6. Does this give you some clues as to the meaning of the ladder that Jacob dreamed about in Genesis 28? This ladder represents whom?

 (k) Now imagine a ladder in your mind. Can you see the two side posts of the ladder and the rungs? Now imagine an open Torah scroll with the two spindles and the horizontal writing on the lambskin leather.

The Jewish rabbis teach that Jacob's ladder represents the Torah or Word of YHVH as being like a bridge from heaven to earth.

 (l) What does John in his Gospel say about Yeshua? (Read John 1:1-14.) What is Yeshua called in verse 1? What did he do? (Read verse 14.)



-  (m) Now that you have a fuller understanding of who Yeshua was before he came to the earth, do you now understand what the ladder is speaking about?
-  (n) Remember what John 14:6 says? Where does your Heavenly Father live? Where is the top of Jacob's ladder? (Read Genesis 28:12.) Where was the bottom of the ladder? (Read the first part of the same verse.)
-  (o) Now read Philippians 2:5-11. What does it say here about Yeshua? Where did he come from and where did he go back to? Does he want to bring us to his Father in heaven? (Read John 14:6 again along with Matthew 11:27; see also Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19 and 4:16.)



The ladder that Jacob saw in his dream was a prophetic symbol of Yeshua, the Son of Elohim who was the Word of Elohim in human form and who came to show people the way to the Father. That way involves putting our faith in Yeshua, believing that he came from heaven, believing that he came proclaiming the Word of YHVH, and that he was that Word. We show that we believe him and that we love him by obeying his Word and by keeping his commandments (see John 14:15 and 1John 2:4-6). If we believe in and follow the Word of Elohim we can then have eternal life and a forever relationship with the Father in heaven. That means that we can be his spiritual sons and daughters and be a part of YHVH Elohim's forever kingdom. This all happens through our believing in and trusting Yeshua who is the Living Torah Word of YHVH, and the spiritual or symbolic ladder or bridge to our Father in heaven.

