

I An Encounter with God

God Appears to Jacob

Gen 28:13 There 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. ¹⁴ Your 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 offspring¹ ¹⁵ I 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."

1. "Leave this land and return to the country where you were born."

During a time of hardship at the home of my uncle Laban

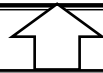
Gen 31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land."



After God blessed Jacob, Laban's attitude toward him changed, and his family began to envy him.

- 3 Go up to Bethel and settle there,

Gen 35:1 Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau."



A problem arose while we were staying in Shechem, putting the family's survival at risk.

II Set an altar of the Lord

1. God met Jacob as he was fleeing from his brother Esau.

➤ **I am the Lord,**
 ➤ **the God of your father Abraham**
 ➤ **and the God of Isaac.**
 ➤ Your descendants will prosper and become a source of blessing

➤ I will protect you
 ➤ I am with you
 ➤ **I will bring you back to this land**

2. Just as He had promised, God always protected Jacob and was with him.

- From his uncle Laban
- From his brother Esau
- From the inhabitants of Shechem

3. Go up to Bethel

Where? Where is Bethel ? The place where Jacob met God—which he called "the house of God"

Gen 28:17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.

What is the purpose of returning ? : Build an altar there to God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob

An altar is a place for offering sacrifices, a place of worship, and a place of prayer. Abraham and Isaac encountered God and built altars. Jacob, too, built an altar to the “God of Israel” after his experience at Peniel. **Gen 33:20 There he set up an altar and called it El Elohe Israel.**
This time, God told Jacob to build an altar to Abraham, Isaac, and the Lord God. He commanded him to return to God and settle there.

Who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.”

- ➔ God reminded Jacob of the promise He had made to him at Bethel, the place Jacob had named.
 - 1) He is the God of Abraham and Isaac, and the Lord.
 - 2) He had promised to bring him back to “this land.”
 - 3) He had promise to give “this land” to Jacob and his descendants;
 - 4) He had promised that He would protect Jacob and never forsake him until He fulfilled this promise.

Building an altar for the Almighty God does not mean ritualistic, self-centered worship, but rather offering worship to the Lord from the heart.

➔ Let's learn from Jacob's life

1. The Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of all generations
- 2 God appeared to Jacob and made a promise: That He would always be with him, protect him, and bring him back.
God is the One who is always with you, protects you, and blesses you. [Matthew 28:20]
“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- 3 Even during Jacob's time of suffering, God was always with him and, as He promised, helped and protected him.
God's promises are never broken. Let us keep His Word in our hearts. The promise of salvation,
- 4 Jacob was transformed from a deceiver into Israel [one who fights for God, one who has conquered his own self].
We became Christians by believing in Jesus. We became members of God's family [Ephesians 2].
We were transformed from a life lived by our own strength and plans, into a life of praying to the Lord and obeying Him.
- 5 God used Jacob's suffering to remind him of His grace. “Return to Bethel and build an altar there.”
And so, God led Jacob to build an altar in the house of God and worship the Almighty.
As the head of the family, Jacob led his entire family to turn away from idolatry.

➔ Let's take a fresh look at our worship: praise, thanksgiving, offerings, service, and evangelism.

- ◆ Are you **praying** only for your own needs and desires or those of your family[healing, provision, help]?
- ◆ Are you **worshiping** in a way that fits your schedule, prioritizing work or other matters?
- ◆ Are you **serving** God only when you have time?
- ◆ Do you **offer thanks** to God only when something good happens—such as healing, provision, or a miraculous experience?
- ◆ Without giving thanks to God every day, are you taking things for granted and giving glory to yourself instead?
- ◆ Are you putting your own plans first and failing to devote yourself to God?
- ◆ Are you prioritizing your own fleshly desires and other things instead of praying to God for guidance regarding your life's plans?

- ➔ Let us remember the Almighty God; let us remember the grace and mercy of Jesus on the cross.
let us dedicate everything to the Lord and worship Him. [Praise, prayer, offerings, service, evangelism]
The Lord will surely answer us and lead us on the path of blessing.