



# JACOB FLED FROM CANAAN



Genesis 28, 32

After Jacob stole his brother Esau's blessing, Esau was so angry that Jacob had to leave home. Jacob's father Isaac sent him away to find a wife from among Abraham's people. Jacob traveled toward Haran. When the sun set, he stopped to sleep for the night. Jacob used a stone for a pillow and fell asleep.

As Jacob slept, he had a dream. In the dream, a stairway was set on the ground, and its top reached the sky. God's angels were going up and down on it. The Lord was standing beside Jacob. He said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will spread out in every direction, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through your family." This was the same promise God had made to Jacob's grandfather Abraham and to his father, Isaac!

Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place!" Jacob took the stone that he slept on, set it up as a special marker, and poured oil over it. He named that place Bethel, which means "House of God."

Then Jacob made a promise. He said, "If God will be with me and watch over me during my journey, if He gives me what I need and brings me safely back home, then the Lord will be my God, and I will worship Him."

Years passed. Jacob got married and had a family. Finally, Jacob took his family and all his possessions and headed home to Canaan. That night, a man appeared to Jacob. The man wrestled with Jacob all night. Jacob refused to give up, so the man injured Jacob's hip."

I will not let You go unless You bless me," Jacob said.

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man said. "Your name will be Israel because you wrestled with God and men, and you have won." The man blessed Jacob. Now Jacob went to meet Esau. Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. He was not angry anymore. Esau returned to his home.

Jacob and his family traveled on, and Jacob bought land for them to live on. Jacob was finally home in the land God had promised him.



**Big Picture Question:** *Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.*



**Christ Connection:** *God changed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel. Jesus came so that we might have a changed life, forgiven of sin. Jesus' death and resurrection provided sinful people the way to be welcomed into God's family forever.*