



Esau, the oldest son of Isaac and Rebekah, was angry! His brother Jacob had taken his birthright and bless-

ing through deception. Esau wanted to kill Jacob! Isaac and Rebekah sent Jacob to live with Rebekah's family in Padanaram (*pay-duhn-AY-ram*) until Esau was over his anger. Before Jacob left, Isaac blessed him and commanded him to find a wife "of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother."

As Jacob traveled, he came to a "certain place" and stopped, for it was starting to get dark. Using stones for a pillow, Jacob laid down to sleep. As he slept, he dreamed of a ladder that reached from earth to Heaven. Angels were going up and down the ladder. "The LORD stood above it."

God spoke to Jacob, telling him that He was the God of Abraham and of Isaac. God promised that He would give the land where Jacob was sleeping to him and to his seed (his children to come). His children would be many, "as the dust of the earth."

Most importantly, God told Jacob, "Behold, I am with thee . . . for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." God would bless Jacob and, one day, would bring him back to his homeland.

When Jacob awoke from his dream, he knew that he was not alone. God was there! Jacob set "the stone that he had put for his pillows . . . for a pillar [monument], and poured oil" on top of it. He called the place Bethel (*BETH-uhl*). There Jacob made a vow to God. If God would keep him as he traveled, clothe him, feed him, and allow him to return to his father's house in peace, then he would serve the Lord and give a tenth of what he had to God.

Church of God Sunday School

JACOB IS DECEIVED

Genesis 28:1 — 29:30

Jacob continued on to his uncle's land. One day he came to a "well in the field" where three flocks of sheep were gathered. When Jacob learned that the shepherds were from Haran (*HAY-ran*), he asked if they knew Laban. They said, "We know him." Jacob asked if Laban was well, and they said, "He is well."

As he talked with the men, Rachel, Laban's daughter, came to the well to water her father's sheep. After helping Rachel water the sheep, Jacob kissed her and wept for joy. Jacob told her they were relatives. Rachel ran home and told her father. Laban ran to meet Jacob, kissed him, and brought him back to his house.

After a month, Laban offered to pay Jacob for working for him. For wages, Jacob asked only that he might marry Rachel. Laban said that he could, and

Jacob promised to work seven years. Jacob loved Rachel so much those years seemed as only a few days.

Jacob worked hard, and Laban prospered. At the end of the seven years, there was a wedding. In the morning, Jacob found that he had married Leah, Rachel's older sister, instead of Rachel! (As was the custom, Leah might have been heavily veiled. So, Jacob did not know that he was marrying Leah until they were already wed.)

Jacob was very upset at being deceived. Jacob went to Laban. His uncle told him that it was the custom for the older daughter to marry first, but he could still marry Rachel. (In early Bible times some men had more than one wife, but this was a departure from God's law, which was, and still is, one man and one woman.)

Laban asked Jacob to wait one week, then he could marry Rachel. But he would have to work for Laban for seven more years. Jacob must have remembered how he had deceived his brother Esau and his father Isaac. Do you think Jacob ever thought someday he would reap for that deception?

God has a law of sowing and reaping. No one ever



gets by with sin. Jacob reaped over and over for his sins. But God was faithful. He kept His promises to Jacob. One day he would return to his homeland. Until that time God was with Jacob, just as He had promised.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

—Galatians 6:7  
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