

Vayetze  
"And Went Out"

Torah Reading: Genesis (Bereshit) 28:10 – 32:3

Haftarah Reading: Hosea 12:13 - 14:10

### Study Questions

1. What is the specific name of "the place" to which Jacob arrived and received his blessing?
2. Why was Jacob leaving Canaan?
3. Why did Jacob receive his dream? What is the significance of it being there, at that place?
4. What is your understanding of the dream?
5. How is a knowledge of this dream helpful in understanding John 1:47-51?
6. What was the significance of Rachel stealing her father's idols?
7. What similarities do you notice between the beginning of the parasha and the end of the parasha?
8. Describe the apparent role of angels in this parasha.

### Memory Verse

"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." - Bereshit 28:16b

### Study Notes

#### Outline

- Preparations for the Battle: God Speaks to Jacob
- The Battle
- First Round: Laban Frustrates Jacob
- Second Round: Jacob Out-Smarts Laban
- Third Round: Rachel Joins the Battle
- The Aftermath of the Battle: God Speaks to Laban

#### "The Place" - 28:11

- In Hebrew, the location is not specifically identified except for the definite article in front of the word place.
- The rabbis equate this "place" with the same wording of Chapter 22 where "the place" is identified as Mount Moriah.
- Mount Moriah is the Temple Mount. The Lord declared to Jacob that it would be given to him.

### The dream - 28:16

- Jacob dreamed of a ladder with angels ascending and descending and the Lord standing at the top.
- He named the place Beth-El "House of God" and Sha'ar haShamayim "Gate of Heaven". Contrast that with Babylon meaning "gate of the gods".
- The rabbis gave many meanings to the dream. It ultimately seems to serve as an assurance that God is with Jacob wherever he goes.

### Deception 'round one' - 29:22

- Jacob did not get what he bargained for. He was tricked into marrying the wrong sister.
- It is interesting that Judah, the seat of leadership, and Levi, the priestly tribe, both came from Leah.

### Jacob deceives Laban - 31:31

- Jacob makes an agreement with Laban over how the livestock will be divided. He seems to have a good sense of breeding practices to get the desired traits he wants in the livestock that will be his.
- This situation becomes an issue between him and Laban

### The stealing of the family idols - 31:19

- While it seems strange to us the household gods had significant meaning to the pagan world during this time.
- The possession of the household idols implied the leadership of the family. The theft was a serious offense and was meant to transfer the family power and wealth to Jacob.

### Jacob met by angels - 32:2

- Jacob is met by angels both upon leaving and returning to the promised land.