

Jacob Sets Up a Stone Pillar

Key Verses: *“Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel.”*

—**Genesis 28:18,19,**
New King James
Version

Selected Scripture:
Genesis 28:10-22

Lord’s will should be done on Jacob’s behalf. Learning of Isaac’s intention to give his blessing to Esau, she initiated the following conversation with Jacob: “Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.”—

TODAY’S KEY VERSES

show a positive outcome to a dire situation. Jacob had fled from the presence of his brother Esau. We are told that when Esau found out that his brother had taken Isaac’s blessing, his intent became murderous. He spoke out loud his inner thoughts of revenge. Some in Isaac’s household heard it and reported it. Rebecca, now aware of the situation, advised Jacob to go to her brother Laban in Paddan-Aram and there, perhaps, find a wife.

Rebecca intended that the

Gen. 27:8-10, *NKJV*

Jacob replied to his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing. But his mother said to him, Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."—vss. 11-13, *NKJV*

Idle words often bear ill fruitage. Rebekah told Jacob, "Let your curse be on me, my son," and so it was. She would never see Jacob again.

In his flight from Beersheba, Jacob came to a certain place and, with nightfall approaching, settled in to sleep, and to dream. "He came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."—Gen. 28:11,12, *NKJV*

In his dream, God stood above the ladder and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you."—vss. 13-15, *NKJV*

Recognizing that God was affirming the great Abrahamic promise to him, Jacob took the stone used for a pillow and set it up as an altar. He anointed it with oil and named the place Bethel, meaning "House of God." Do we as Christians have an anointed rock upon which all our hopes and dreams are founded? Indeed, we do. It is Jesus the Anointed, the Rock of our faith. ■