

## Genesis 28

Bethel

*From troubled turf ...*

### I. A Parting of Ways

- A. The Shattered Family
- B. Jacob, a Marked Man
- C. One Lonely Journey

### II. Heaven Opened

- A. The Vision
  - 1. God's Presence
  - 2. God's Promises
- B. The Awesome Place
- C. The Reaction
  - 1. Tainted Vows
  - 2. Or True Devotion

### III. Seeing Greater Things

- A. Jesus the Living Ladder
- B. In an Awesome Place
- C. Living the Consecrated Life

*... to heavenly heights.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. Why did Jacob have to leave home?
2. What are some things he might have felt on his journey?
3. In Jacob's dream, who is on the ladder? Who at the top of the ladder?
4. How should God's words to Jacob have made him feel?
5. How does this ladder from heaven to earth remind us of Jesus?

## Heaven Opened

In simply reading along in the opening chapter of John's Gospel it might be easy to miss the connection, but if you are paying attention you will see that Jesus makes an explicit reference to our text in Genesis and He makes it obvious that the ladder in Jacob's magnificent dream was a reference to His person (John 1:51). He is the second person of the Trinity Who came to earth in human flesh in order reconcile fallen man to the Holy God of heaven. As Paul wrote "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." 1 Timothy 2:5-6 This is more than a profound theological truth, it is something that has to be personalized by faith. As illustrated in the scene with Jacob, God condescends in His grace and sends His Son to take away His people's sins. But Jesus has to be embraced by us through faith in order for us to be reconciled to God through His atoning and mediating work. Those who know the power and benefits of the mediatorial work of Christ should rightly desire to be "whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him."