

### 28:13-14

**And behold, the LORD stood above it** Other than Jacob here, Abraham and Isaac are the only other people to whom God shows Himself (Genesis 15, 17, 18; ) while Abimelech is the only other person to hear from God in a dream (Genesis 20) **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. 14 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.** First given to his grandfather (Genesis 12:3-7). Galatians 3:8 speaks of this as the Christ plan. Isaiah 9:1-7 speaks of other nations being in God’s plan at least as far back as Isaiah’s ministry. Shortly later, we have Zechariah 14 speaking of “all families” in the future to attend feasts in Jerusalem. Revelation 22 speaks now of the “nations” coming to eat of the fruit of the tree of life for healing.

### 28:18-22

**Then Jacob rose early in the morning,** Just Abraham did on the morning that he sent Ishmael away (Genesis 20-21) and the day that he arose to take Isaac away to sacrifice (Genesis 22) **and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.** “almond” became “House of God.” When God shows up in a place, it becomes very special. The only difference between “almonds” and “house of God” is God revealing Himself to a human being. **20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. 22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”** There are Covenantal,<sup>1</sup> Historical,<sup>2</sup> Sensible,<sup>3</sup> and Biblical. An overcommitted 90% is the real issue more than an undersized 100%. Wealth, anyway, is not what one needs but how little one needs. Jacob learned how to tithe, probably, from his grandfather Abraham (Genesis 14). This was a promise in response to the promise God had already made to him (verses 13-15). This is pre-Mosaic by 500 years. In other words, long before the first priest of Moses’ law, God fearers were offering tithes.

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<sup>1</sup>If you have a covenant church membership, there is a strong probability that “tithing” is a part of the church’s statement of faith or church covenant. If you don’t agree, don’t join.

<sup>2</sup>Since the first century, Jewish believers made an easy transition between Saturday Sabbath worship and Sunday, first-day-of-worship which included reading, exposition, and...tithing.

<sup>3</sup>If the church has property, caretakers, staff, utilities, equipment...somebody needs to think about paying for it; this could be said about pastoral support, benevolence giving, and missions support as well.