



**STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS**



- 1 **DREADFUL (H3372) "Yare"** - to fear; mor. to revere; caus. To frighten
- 2 **EXALT (H7311) "Ruwm"** - to be high, to rise or raise.  
**EXALT (H5549) "Caial"** - to mound up (Prov. 4:7-8)
- 3 **GATE (H8179) "Sha-ar"** - an opening; i.e. door
- 4 **HARAN** - located in northern Mesopotamia, near a branch of the Euphrates, where Rebekah's brother Laban lived.
- 5 **LADDER (H5551) "Cu1lam"** - only mentioned once in the Bible... a staircase; taken from H5549 to exalt
- 6 **REVERENCE(H3372) "Yare"** - same definition as "dreadful"  
**Random House Dictionary:**  
*Reverence*-a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe; veneration



**TEXT OF THE WEEK**



**"Behold, I am with thee and will keep thee in all the places thither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken of."**  
-Gen. 28:15

# THE LADDER

November 15, 2009

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 28:10-22

## "How Dreadful is This Place...this is the Gate of Heaven"

When we think of a ladder, the term "climbing the ladder of success" comes to mind. But what is the significance of the ladder in the dream of Jacob? Why a ladder? Is this ladder affiliated with climbing or with the connection from heaven to earth?

### THE JOURNEY

1. Read Genesis 28:10 and follow a map from Beersheba to Haran. Why would God use this time to speak to Jacob? What might a journey represent spiritually?

### THE DREAM

2. Read Genesis 28:12-15. Recall if this is Jacob's first confrontation with God. What are three details of Jacob's dream?
  - A. Why a ladder? Read the side column information concerning the "ladder" and notice the word was taken from "exalt." Use Psalm 57:10-11 and Psalm 46:10 to discuss the relationship between the two words.
  - B. What does "*the angels ascending and descending*" imply? John 1:48-51
3. List four promises that God gave Jacob in Genesis 28:15. Are these promises just to Jacob or also to the seed of Jacob (His elect)? Prove your answer with scripture. (i.e. Jn. 14:18; 1 Cor. 1:3-5)

**"Surely the Lord is in This Place; and I Knew It Not."**

4. How did Jacob respond after he awoke? Gen. 28:16
  - A. Discuss the significance of "*I knew it not.*" Use Job 42:2-3, 5-6 for support.
  - B. In Gen. 28:13, states that "*the Lord stood above it (the ladder).*" In Gen. 28:17, Jacob calls this place "*the gate of heaven*" and describes it as "*dreadful.*" What do you notice about the definitions of "dreadful" and "reverence"? (Side column) Read and respond to the same word (H3372) in Psalm 89:7 and in Lev. 19:30.
  - C. What is this "*gate of heaven*"? - Ps. 118:19-21

### THE STONES

5. Discuss the stones mentioned In Gen. 28:11, 18 & 22. What is the spiritual significance of stones? 1 Peter 2:5-8

### THE VOW

6. Notice Jacob's vow (Gen. 28:20-22) is written in an "If-Then Statement."
  - "*If.... God will be with me and keep me in this way that I go, and give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace;*"

If the meaning is limited to Jacob's physical needs, we would miss the beauty of the greater needs (spiritual). What are they? (Jn. 6:47-51; Is. 61:10; Jn. 14:2)

- "*Then...shall the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.*"

Do you find it strange that Jacob wanted all these things and only would give a tenth back? Is our attitude toward tithing that it is something hard to afford or would it be easier if we thought that everything is God's anyway? Use scripture to prove your answer.

