

# *Israel, Arise*

A Study about the Life of Jacob

# About the Study

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This Bible study contains thirty-five sessions. They can be completed at your own pace. However, it is ideal to complete five sessions per week, for seven weeks, if your schedule permits. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the components of this Bible study, in order to get the most from your study time.

## Overview

This section of the study begins with a very condensed recap of the information you have previously studied. Additionally, this section includes some pertinent background information to prepare you to read the new Scripture assigned for that day.

## Assigned Scripture

This section of the study directs you to read assigned Scripture for your special consideration. Consider this the most important part of the study. It is vital that you read the assigned Scripture in a Bible translation that you find easy to comprehend.

If you do not own a Bible that is easy for you to read, please consider browsing the free online Bible resources available on the internet. Two examples of these free online resources are Biblehub.com and Bibleportal.com. Find a resource that is easy for you to navigate. You can bookmark it for future reference and use it throughout this study.

## Comprehension Questions

This section of the study should be completed after you have read the assigned Scripture. In this section, you will respond to comprehension questions that are designed to guide you in reviewing and analyzing the meaning of the Scriptures. This section sometimes includes cited Scripture. However, please note that it is meant to complement your own independent reading of the assigned Scripture. For this reason, you will notice that not all of the assigned Scripture is cited, and sometimes additional Scripture that is not assigned will be incorporated here.

## Discussion

This section of the study serves as a summary and commentary. Here, you will find the answers to the questions posed in the previous section. As with any commentary, it will offer one explanation of the Scripture. It may vary, at times, from your own interpretation. You are encouraged to respond to what you read here (see *Monitor Your Learning* explanation). I have not written this study from a place of authority. So, think of this section as notes shared between friends. We may not always come to the same conclusions. The important thing is that you pray and consult God about what understanding to glean.

You will find references listed in the endnotes and bibliography located at the end of this study. These lists are comprised of the literature that I reviewed throughout my personal study of Jacob's life. The commentaries especially, are excellent resources for further study. But note that even these resources contain interpretations that do not always agree.

## Personal Connection

At the end of every session you will be asked to select a part of the Scripture that you have found noteworthy. This can be a single verse or a grouping of verses from the assigned Scripture or the cited Scripture in the session. You will write the Scripture you've selected, word for word. After this, you will write the reason you found the Scripture noteworthy and include a meaningful personal connection you have made. Your work in this section will be a great resource for you to revisit once you have completed the study.

## Review Activity

Every fifth session in this study is an activity that reviews what you have studied throughout the week. The activities will vary from the usual session format and will challenge you to think about the material in a fresh way. This is a great reason to revisit the Scripture and review any notes that you have made throughout the week.

## Group Discussion Guide

The study sessions are designed to be completed independently. However, you can optimize your learning experience by meeting with a friend or group of friends to discuss what you have studied. If you choose to do this, refer to the Group Discussion Guide beginning on page 184.

## *Monitor Your Learning*

One way to monitor your learning throughout the study is to mark personal observations of the text as you read. You can do this by underlining or highlighting important parts of the text. Additionally, you can use the margin space provided to write notes you have made or points that you would like to return to later.

One helpful strategy to employ as you mark notable text is to use three symbols that can help you organize your observations. You can mark the margin with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark to classify your notes. See the statements below. They are examples of observations that you might classify by marking with one of the three punctuation marks.

•	<i>This aligns with my thinking. I agree with this point. I understand completely.</i>
!	<i>Wow! I am excited about this! This is something new that I just realized!</i>
?	<i>I don't agree. I don't understand this. I need to research this further.</i>

“I will bring forth  
descendants from Jacob,  
And from

*Judah*

an heir of My mountains;  
My elect shall inherit it,  
And My servants shall  
dwell there.”

Isaiah 65:9, NKJV

# Contents

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## *Week One*

Day 1	Isaac and Rebekah Pray	13
Day 2	The Twins	17
Day 3	A Not So Even Exchange	22
Day 4	Insight on Esau	28
Day 5	Double Puzzle	33

## *Week Two*

Day 1	Rebekah's Plan	37
Day 2	Jacob Agrees to Deceive	42
Day 3	Jacob Tricks His Father	45
Day 4	The Blessing	50
Day 5	Table of Traits	55

## *Week Three*

Day 1	The Family	59
Day 2	Jacob's Dream	65
Day 3	Jesus, Our Stairway	70
Day 4	Love at First Sight	74
Day 5	Word Find	79

## *Week Four*

Day 1	Jacob is Deceived	83
Day 2	Descriptive or Prescriptive	87
Day 3	Jacob Gains Favor	92
Day 4	Jacob Flees From Laban	97
Day 5	Thought Bubbles	101

## *Week Five*

Day 1	Laban Hunts Jacob Down	105
Day 2	Jacob Sends Gifts to Esau	109
Day 3	Jacob Wrestles with God	113
Day 4	Jacob and Esau Make Peace	117
Day 5	Storyboard	121

## *Week Six*

Day 1	Trouble in Shechem	125
Day 2	Israel, Arise	131
Day 3	Five Important Events	137
Day 4	Jacob's Heartache	142
Day 5	Crossword Puzzle	148

## *Week Seven*

Day 1	Provision Through a Famine	153
Day 2	Jacob Goes to Egypt	158
Day 3	Ephraim and Manasseh	164
Day 4	Jacob's Last Words	169
Day 5	What I've Learned	177

## *Extra Things*

Double Puzzle Answer Key	181
Word Find Answer Key	182
Crossword Puzzle Answer Key	183
Group Discussion Guide	184
References	186

*Sample Study Session*

# Jacob's Dream

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## Overview

Today we will learn that Rebekah's complaint about Esau's wives was pretty clever. After speaking to her, Isaac took action. Isaac blessed Jacob, then sent him on his way to Haran in Paddan Aram to find a suitable wife. We can say that Jacob set off on a journey to find a wife. We can also say that he fled his home abruptly because his furious brother wanted to kill him. Both of these statements would be correct.

Haran was located over 400 miles away from Jacob's home in Beersheba.<sup>2</sup> This was not a short trip. Traveling this great distance would probably not have been Jacob's preference. Remember, we previously learned that Jacob was not the adventurous twin. He was a "mild man" and preferred to stay close to home.

Jacob left the only home he knew and with it, his entire family. This included his greatest ally, his mother, whom he was closest with. For the first time, Jacob was truly by himself. He had ample time to reflect on the mess he left behind, time to reflect on how he had deceived his father to attain the blessing, and how he had infuriated his brother to the point that Esau wanted him dead. Jacob would have had good reason to feel discouraged and alone.

As we read, let us try to imagine the different emotions Jacob felt on his journey. May the Holy Spirit speak directly to our hearts with this Word of God.

In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

## Assigned Scripture

**Genesis 28:1-22**

## Comprehension Questions

1. What is important about Genesis 28:3-4?

***May God  
Almighty bless  
you and give you  
many children.  
And may your  
descendants  
multiply and  
become many  
nations!***

***Genesis 28:3, NLT***

2. In Genesis 28:3-4, Isaac gave Jacob another blessing before sending him away. What makes this second blessing different from the previous blessing he delivered to Jacob?
3. Early into his journey Jacob set up camp and laid down for the night. That night he had a life-changing dream. In your own words, describe Jacob's dream.
4. God stood at the top of the stairway and spoke many promises to Jacob. Number the promises in the cited Scripture passage.

**Genesis 28:13-15, ESV**

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

5. Write three of God's promises below.
6. What did the dream make Jacob realize?
7. The next morning Jacob marked and named the place where he had the dream. How did he mark it and what did he name it?



## 8. What is important about Genesis 28:20-22?

### Discussion

The Scripture states that Isaac gave Jacob a blessing before sending him away. This blessing was different than the previous blessing, which Jacob had obtained by trickery and deceit. This second blessing was specific to Jacob. It represented a reconciliation between him and his father. More importantly, it solidified that Isaac saw Jacob as the next patriarch of the family. In this blessing, Isaac acknowledged that it was Jacob that was the next in the great lineage, which stemmed from his grandfather, Abraham.

During his trip, Jacob experienced a life-changing dream that affirmed his destiny. In his dream, Jacob saw a stairway that was resting on the earth and the top of it reached to heaven. Jacob saw angels ascending and descending on the stairway. There above it, stood God Almighty.

This dream serves as evidence that indeed, God had chosen Jacob, the liar and the cheater, on that fateful, lonely night. God saw something within Jacob that He could work with, and so God came to him in a dream to extend His invitation. Theologian F.B. Meyer describes God's selection as follows.

“Amidst all his sin, there must have been in Jacob a better self, which was capable of receiving the education of God, and of being developed into Israel.

You may call this faith, or what you will; but it was there. And it was the possession of this better nature that made Jacob stand in a different relation towards God than Esau did; and made him capable of rising to a spiritual level, for which Esau had neither the aptitude nor the taste.”<sup>4</sup>

In turn, Jacob discovered something critical. He discovered that although he was traveling by himself, he was not alone. God made His presence known to Jacob. His promises to Jacob served as an affirmation of the promises He had previously made to Jacob's fathers, Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 13:14-17; 26:2-5), and an acknowledgment that God recognized Jacob as the next in this great lineage. Though Jacob had received the blessing from his earthly father, God's blessing had to be reestablished with Jacob, personally.

*Though like the  
wanderer,  
the sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me,  
my rest a stone;  
Yet in my dreams  
I'd be nearer,  
my God, to Thee<sup>2</sup>*

*S.F. Adams, 1841<sup>3</sup>*

omnipresent:  
adjective  
present in all  
places at all times<sup>5</sup>  
Merriam-Webster

If God is present at every point in space, if we cannot go where He is not, cannot even conceive of a place where He is not, why then has not that Presence become the one universally celebrated fact of the world? The patriarch Jacob, "in the waste howling wilderness," gave the answer to that question. He saw a vision of God and cried out in wonder, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not." Jacob had never been for one small division of a moment outside the circle of that all-pervading Presence. But he knew it not. That was his trouble, and it is ours.<sup>6</sup>

This important scene from Jacob's travels illustrates that regardless of your family background, a personal relationship with God is something that you must establish for yourself. Being raised in a Christian home does not ensure that you have a personal relationship with God. Likewise, being raised in a non-Christian household does not block you from having your own personal relationship with God.

Our ever-present God wants a personal relationship with each of us. We each can establish a personal relationship with God by believing that Jesus is the Son of God, sent to earth to pay the penalty for our sins. He died on the cross, and on the third day he rose. Because of this sacrifice, all who believe in Jesus have been chosen to share in the inheritance of salvation and eternal life as children of God.

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Romans 10:9, NIV

## Personal Connection

1. Select noteworthy Scripture from today's session.
2. Write the Scripture you've selected, word for word.
3. Write the reason that you found it noteworthy.

## *Sample Review Activity*

# Double Puzzle

Unscramble the words that answer the clues. Use the numbered letter boxes to fill in boxes in the mystery sentence below. Can you solve the mystery sentence? Check your work on page 181.

He saw the twins before they were born.	odG	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>12</div> </div>
Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of this.	etsw	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>34</div> </div>
Jacob was born ____ Esau's heel.	signparg	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>567</div> </div>
Isaac and Rebekah were childless for ____ years.	weytnt	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>8</div> </div>
She was one of Esau's wives.	diuhJt	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>910</div> </div>
She asked God about her pregnancy.	ekaheRb	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>11</div> </div>
Jacob is described as being this.	ldmi	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>12</div> </div>
The Hittites were indigenous to this area.	naCaan	<div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div>13</div> </div>

96131

563742

810

48411

2612!

*Group Discussion Guide*  
*optional*

# Group Discussion Guide

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The study sessions in this Bible study are designed to be completed independently. However, you can optimize your learning experience by meeting with a friend or group of friends to discuss what you have studied. It is best to designate a group leader to lead the discussions.

## ***Notes for the Group Leader:***

Ensure that everyone in the group has their own copy of this book. Establish a regular meeting day and time that works for the group members. Decide on the duration for the meetings. This can vary, according to the group's preference. A meeting duration time of one hour or one and a half hours should be sufficient to cover the material.

Before the first meeting, tell group members to familiarize themselves with the Bible study format by reading the *About the Study* explanation starting on page 6. Encourage them to pay special attention to the *Monitor Your Learning* section, in order to facilitate group discussion.

Start each meeting by having the group members flip through the daily sessions from the week, one day at a time. You can refer to the discussion suggestions listed below as the members of the group look through their notes and responses. These are only suggestions and not a replacement for genuine discussion that may naturally occur. It is not necessary to cover all of the suggestions, nor is it necessary for everyone to respond to every prompt. Encourage group participation, but do not assign group members to respond if they have not volunteered.

Depending on the size of your group, you may choose to have group members share their responses with the entire group or share in pairs. Monitor the pacing of the discussion and stick to the agreed upon duration time frame for the meetings.

At the end of each meeting, ask for a volunteer to close the meeting in prayer. As the group leader, be prepared to close in prayer if there are no volunteers to do so.

## ***Prayer Requests:***

Incorporating prayer requests is a great addition to any group Bible study. This is optional, but recommended. During the first session, be sure to briefly discuss the importance of keeping the prayer requests confidential.

One way to solicit prayer requests without taking up group discussion time is to pass around a sheet of paper during the last ten minutes of the meeting. Do not stop the Bible study discussion for this. Simply pass the sheet around and encourage group members to individually write any prayer requests that they would like to share.

After the meeting is over, the group leader can take a picture of the prayer request sheet that has been passed around and send it out to the group members via text or email. Encourage group members to review the prayer requests and to pray for each other throughout the week.

Week One
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the group to discuss their responses to questions 5 and 9 on page 18, question 3 on page 22, question 6 on page 24, and question 6 on page 30.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one or two personal observations that they marked with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one of their Personal Connections from the week.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the group to review the clues and answers on the Double Puzzle activity.</li> </ul>

Week Two
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the group to discuss their responses to questions 4 and 5 on page 38, question 4 on page 43, question 1 on page 45, question 6 on page 46, and question 3 on page 51.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one or two personal observations that they marked with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one of their Personal Connections from the week.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to select one family member from their Table of Traits activity. Direct them to share the explanation that describes the family member, without saying the name. Invite the remaining group members to guess who it is.</li> </ul>

Week Three
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the group to discuss their responses to question 5 on page 60, question 4 on page 66, questions 3 and 6 on page 71, and questions 5 and 6 on page 75.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one or two personal observations that they marked with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one of their Personal Connections from the week.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to review the words listed in the Word Find activity.</li> </ul>

Week Four
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead the group to discuss their responses to question 6 on page 84, question 5 on page 88, question 6 on page 93, question 9 on page 94, and question 3 on page 98.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one or two personal observations that they marked with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage group members to share one of their Personal Connections from the week.</li> </ul>



- Encourage group members to share one pairing from their Thought Bubbles activity. Direct them to share the Scripture they chose and the corresponding reflection, interpretation, or question they wrote in the Thought Bubble.

#### Week Five

- Lead the group to discuss their responses to question 5 on page 106, questions 3 and 4 on page 110, questions 3 and 4 on page 114, and question 3 on page 118.
- Encourage group members to share one or two personal observations that they marked with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.
- Encourage group members to share one of their Personal Connections from the week.
- Encourage group members to share one square from their Storyboard activity. Direct them to explain their illustration and read their corresponding sentence.

#### Week Six

- Lead the group to discuss their responses to question 2 on page 125, questions 5 and 6 on page 126, question 2 on page 132, and question 4 on page 144.
- Encourage group members to share one or two personal observations that they marked with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.
- Encourage group members to share one of their Personal Connections from the week.
- Lead the group to review the clues and answers on the Crossword Puzzle activity.

#### Week Seven

- Lead the group to discuss their responses to question 2 on page 154, questions 4 and 10 on page 159, question 5 and 7 on page 165, and questions 6 and 8 on page 171.
- Encourage group members to share one or two personal observations that they marked with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark.
- Encourage group members to share one of their Personal Connections from the week.
- Encourage group members to share the reflections on their What I've Learned activity.