

- A. We know His presence by His Word (28:15) We are not depending on an emotional high or a sacred feeling. We hear Him say "I will never leave you nor forsake you" Hebrews 13, and we are satisfied with that. We read in Ephesians 1 of the Spirit being given us as the "earnest" of our salvation and by the Word we know the presence of the Lord no matter how we feel in an emotional sense or how we are gripped with a practical reality.
- B. We know His presence is not limited nor altered by circumstance. The promise of the covenant and the land (28:13) is not even dependent on some remarkable deed or faithfulness by Jacob. We are sometimes abandoned by people due to trials or maybe by some embarrassment we might cause them but the Lord is not so moved. Jacob, in the next several years, will be sorely tried by a less than honest Laban and by situations of great stress. But the Lord will sustain him through all of that and it is part of the promise given in this text.
- C. We know His presence is assured until His work is complete. (28:14) In our economy we look at Philippians 1:6 and similar passages to assure us that the One who has begun a good work in us will complete it. We do not have to sleep with a stone for a pillow, see a vision, or have such physical experiences with God. We read how the patriarchs had them and we learn from them and from Jacob we learn His present is just right for us.
- III. Conclusion: One will want to read the life of Jacob in the next many chapters of Genesis to see how God fulfilled this dream-vision-encounter. You will follow him to Egypt and hear his testimony to Pharaoh and will see his other experiences in the journey of life. But eventually we learn through all of it that the difference in life is the presence of God. Knowing He is with the believer is all the stability we need and our trust capacity grows as we sense this reality.

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## MESSAGE # 6: JACOB

Biblical Passages: Genesis 32

### I. Introduction to the study :