



**International Bible Lesson**  
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series  
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

## Thinking Further

### **Where is the House of God Today?** **November 18, 2018** **Genesis 28:10-22**

*“Jacob was afraid and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven’” (Genesis 28:17).*

On his way to find a wife and escape the wrath of his brother, Jacob stopped near Luz and used a stone pillar for a pillow. That night, he dreamed and saw angels going up and down a ladder between heaven and earth. From above the ladder, the LORD told Jacob that he would be the descendant of Abraham through whom God would fulfill His promises to Abraham and Isaac. The LORD reaffirmed that he and his descendants would receive the land God promised. His descendants would spread throughout the earth. All peoples on earth would be blessed by him and his offspring. Furthermore, the LORD would always watch over him. From the Bible and throughout history since then, we know God kept all these promises. Jacob was so overwhelmed that he called the place Bethel, which means “the house of God.” Because the kings of Israel set up idols in Bethel, its name was changed to Beth-aven, which meant “the house of nothingness” or “the house of idols.” During the existence of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, the Hebrews went to different places to meet with God. After Jesus the Messiah came, He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell His followers. To explain this fact, Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Now, God abides within those who worship Him.

1. How did God identify himself to Jacob? Why should this way of identification be important to Jacob?
2. What did the LORD promise Jacob? Why was this promise important?
3. What did the LORD say He would do specifically and personally for Jacob?
4. How did Jacob describe the place where God met him? How would you describe the place where you meet with God?
5. What did Jacob promise God?

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