

~EL-BETHEL (91)

(El-beth'el) [The God of Bethel]

- The name given by Jacob to the spot where he erected an altar in obedience to God's command.
- After that God said to Jacob; Rise, go up to Bethel and dwell there, and make an altar there to the true God who appeared to you when you were running away from Esau your brother. (**Genesis 35:1**)
- Then he built an altar there and began to call the place Elbethel, because there the true God had revealed himself to him at the time of his running away from his brother. (**Genesis 35:7**)
- Certain scholars consider, **The God of Bethel**, to be an unlikely name for a location, and note that in the **Greek Septuagint**, **Latin Vulgate**, **Syriac Peshitta**, and **Arabic** versions the initial **E** was omitted.
- However, it should be remembered that the area around Bethel was full of meaning for Jacob. It was in this area over 20 years earlier that God revealed himself to Jacob in a dream, promising to protect him. At that time the patriarch was moved to respond; Truly Yehowah is in this place.
- And Jacob continued on his way out from Beersheba and kept going to Haran. (**Genesis 28:10**)
- In time he came across a place and set about spending the night there because the sun had set. So he took one of the stones of the place and set it as his head supporter and lay down in that place. (**Genesis 28:11**)
- And he began to dream, and, look! There was a ladder stationed upon the earth and its top reaching up to the heavens, and, look! There were God's angels ascending and descending on it. (**Genesis 28:12**)
- And, look! there was Yehowah stationed above it, and he proceeded to say; I am Yehowah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land upon which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your seed. (**Genesis 28:13**)

- **And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves. (Genesis 28:14)**
- **And here I am with you and I will keep you in all the way you are going and I will return you to this ground, because I am not going to leave you until I have actually done what I have spoken to you. (Genesis 28:15)**
- **Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said; Truly Yehowah is in this place and I myself did not know it. (Genesis 28:16)**
- **And he grew fearful and added; How fear-inspiring this place is! This is nothing else but the house of God and this is the gate of the heavens. (Genesis 28:17)**
- **So Jacob got up early in the morning and took the stone that was there as his head supporter and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. (Genesis 28:18)**
- **Further, he called the name of that place Bethel, but the fact is, Luz was the city's name formerly. (Genesis 28:19)**
- **And Jacob went on to vow a vow, saying; If God will continue with me and will certainly keep me on this way on which I am going and will certainly give me bread to eat and garments to wear (Genesis 28:20)**
- **And I shall certainly return in peace to the house of my father, then Yehowah will have proved to be my God. (Genesis 28:21)**
- **And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will become a house of God, and as for everything that you will give me I shall without fail give the tenth of it to you. (Genesis 28:22)**
- **Since this was the case, when later naming the altar site, Jacob was saying in effect, **God is in Bethel.****
- **After that he set up there an altar and called it God **the God of Israel.** (Genesis 33:20)**

