

More may be going on than we realize

This weeks reading from Parashat Vayetze (*Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-32:2*) Jacob flees from Esau and begins his journey to the land of Haran. During His journey, he lays down at Bethel (בית אלהים) the Lord speaks to him in a dream and reiterates the covenant promises that He had promised to his Fathers Abraham and Isaac. *ג והנה יהוה נצב עליו ויאמר אני יהוה אלהי אברהם אביך ואלהי יצחק הארץ אשר אתה שכב עליה לך. ואתננה ולזרעך: יד והנה זרעה כעפר הארץ ופרצת זמה וקדמה וצפנה ונגבה ונברכו בך כל-משפחת האדמה ויזרעה: טו והנה אנכי אתננה לך: 28:13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 28:14 'Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 28:15 '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.' (NASB) After these things, Jacob wakes up and we read what he says and does in *Bereshit / Genesis 28:6-9*.*

כתבי הקודש / The Holy Scriptures	
<p style="text-align: center;">ספר בראשית פרק כח</p> <p>טז ויִקְוֹץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אָכֵן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי: יז וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מֵהַנּוֹרָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם-בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים וְזֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם: יח וַיִּשְׁכֵם יַעֲקֹב בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הָאֲבָן אֲשֶׁר-שָׂם מִרְאֲשֵׁיתוֹ וַיִּשֶׂם אֹתָהּ מַצְבֵּה וַיִּצַק שָׁמֶן עַל-רֹאשָׁהּ: יט וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שֵׁם-הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בַּיִת-אֵל וְאוּלָם לֹזֵז שֵׁם-הָעִיר לְרֵאשִׁנָה: כ וַיִּדַר יַעֲקֹב נֶדָר לֵאמֹר אִם-יְהִיֵּה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּדִי וַיִּשְׁמְרֵנִי בַדֶּרֶךְ הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ וַנְתַּן-לִי לֶחֶם לֶאֱכֹל וּבְגָד לְלַבֵּשׁ: כא וְשָׁבְתִי בְשָׁלוֹם אֶל-בַּיִת אָבִי וְהָיָה יְהוָה לִי לֵאלֹהִים:</p>	<p>Bereshit / Genesis 28:6-9</p> <p>28:16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.’ 28:17 He was afraid and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’ 28:18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on its top. 28:19 He called the name of that place Bethel; however, previously the name of the city had been Luz. 28:20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, ‘If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, 28:21 and I return to my father’s house in safety, then the Lord will be my God. (NASB)</p>

Jacob awoke from his sleep and said “*Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it*” (ויקץ). According to the Scriptures, Jacob did not know the Lord was with him until this moment in his life. The Lord gave him a promise that He is going to work mightily in his life so much so that in his descendents all of the families of the earth will be blessed (ונברכו). Throughout this week’s Parasha, the Lord works in the background, through the birth of Jacob’s children and in the blessing of wealth in livestock and possessions. As in that time, so it is to today, the Lord may be working in the background in ways we are unaware of. The Apostle Paul tells us in *Romans 8:26-28*.

Romans 8:26-28

8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (NASB)

Because God is working in the background, at many times we do not know how to pray as we should, however, we are told that the Holy Spirit of God will intercede on our behalf as the Lord searches our hearts and our needs through prayer. At times we may not know the reasons why things happen the way they do, but like in Jacob’s life, we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28) in Yeshua the Messiah!