

Sacred Surprise

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield

^{TNK} **Genesis 28:10** Jacob left Beer-sheba, and set out for Haran. ¹¹ He came upon a certain place and stopped there for the night, for the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of that place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² He had a dream; a stairway was set on the ground and its top reached to the sky, and angels of God were going up and down on it. ¹³ And the LORD was standing beside him and He said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac: the ground on which you are lying I will assign to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴ Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants. ¹⁵ Remember, I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is present in this place, and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ Shaken, he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven." ¹⁸ Early in the morning, Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He named that site Bethel; but previously the name of the city had been Luz. ²⁰ Jacob then made a vow, saying, "If God remains with me, if He protects me on this journey that I am making, and gives me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ and if I return safe to my father's house -- the LORD shall be my God. ²² And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, shall be God's abode; and of all that You give me, I will set aside a tithe for You."

Genesis 28:10 ^{WTT} וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חֲרָנָה: ¹¹ וַיִּפְגַּע בַּמָּקוֹם וַיֵּלֶן שָׁם כִּי-בֵּא הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּקַּח מֵאֲבָנֵי הַמָּקוֹם וַיִּשָּׂם מִרְאֲשֹׁתָיו וַיִּשְׁכַּב בַּמָּקוֹם הַהוּא: ¹² וַיַּחְלֹם וַהֲגָה סֵלֶם מִצֵּב אֲרָצָה וּרְאִשׁוֹ מִגֵּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וַהֲגָה מִלְּאֲבֵי אֱלֹהִים עֲלִים וְיִרְדִּים בּוֹ: ¹³ וַהֲגָה יְהוָה נֹצֵב עָלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אָבִיךָ וְאֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה שֹׁכֵב עָלֶיהָ לְךָ אֶתְנַנָּה וְלִזְרַעְךָ: ¹⁴ וְהָיָה זְרַעְךָ כַּעֲפַר הָאָרֶץ וּפְרִצְתָּ יָמָה וּקְדָמָה וּצְפֹנָה וְנִגְבָּה וּנְבָרְכוּ בְךָ כָּל-מִשְׁפַּחַת הָאָדָמָה וּבְזִרְעֶךָ: ¹⁵ וַהֲגָה אָנֹכִי עִמָּךְ וְשִׁמְרְתִיךָ בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר-תֵּלֵךְ וְהִשְׁבַּתִּיךָ אֶל-הָאָדָמָה הַזֹּאת כִּי לֹא אֶעֱזָבְךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר אִם-עָשִׂיתִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּרְתִּי לְךָ: ¹⁶ וַיִּקַּץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲכֹל יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאָנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי: ¹⁷ וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מִה-נִּזְוָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם-בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים וְזֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם: ¹⁸ וַיִּשְׁכֵם יַעֲקֹב בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הָאֲבָן אֲשֶׁר-שָׂם מִרְאֲשֹׁתָיו וַיִּשָּׂם אֹתָהּ מִצְבֵּה וַיִּצַק שָׁמֶן עָלֶיהָ: ¹⁹ וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שֵׁם-הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בֵּית-אֵל וְאוּלַם לְזוֹ שֵׁם-הָעִיר לְרֵאשִׁינָה: ²⁰ וַיִּזְדַּר יַעֲקֹב נָדָר לֵאמֹר אִם-יְהִיָּה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּדִי וְשִׁמְרָנִי בַדֶּרֶךְ הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ וְנָתַתְּ לִי לֶחֶם לֶאֱכֹל וּבִגְד לְלַבֵּשׁ: ²¹ וְשִׁבַּתִּי בְשָׁלוֹם אֶל-בַּיִת אָבִי וְהָיָה יְהוָה לִי לְאֱלֹהִים: ²² וְהָאֲבָן הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר-שָׁמַתִּי מִצְבֵּה יְהִיָּה בַיִת אֱלֹהִים וְכָל אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּן-לִי עֹשֶׂר אֶעֱשָׂרְנוּ לְךָ:



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership
440 Park Avenue South – 4th Floor
New York, NY 10016 212-779-3300 www.clal.org

Sacred Surprise

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield

RASHI

And he arrived at the place: Scripture does not mention which place, but [it means] the place mentioned elsewhere, which is Mount Moriah, concerning which it is said (Gen. 22:4):“And he saw the place from afar.” [From Pes. 88a]

ויפגע במקום: לא הזכיר הכתוב באיזה מקום אלא במקום הנזכר במקום אחר, הוא הר המוריה שנאמר בו (לעיל כב ד) וירא את המקום מרחוק



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership
440 Park Avenue South – 4th Floor
New York, NY 10016 212-779-3300 www.clal.org