

Jacob's Dream (Genesis 28: 10-22, this version from dltk-bible.com)

This story from the Bible is about Jacob. If you don't remember he had a twin brother named Esau who he tricked out of his blessing from his father Isaac.

Esau was very angry with Jacob, so Jacob left. I'm thinking Jacob either walked or was riding a horse and at the end of a long day of travelling he decided to stop for the night.

It must have been a warm evening because Jacob just slept under the stars. He didn't have a pillow with him (which even if he had, I'm not sure they would be anything like the pillows we have now), so he found a good size stone to lay his head on.

He must have been tired because he fell into a deep sleep and began to dream. First he saw a long stairway that touched the ground, with the very top of it reaching heaven. Maybe in his dream heaven was where the clouds were, it doesn't say.

Next he saw angels of God moving up and down the stairway. I imagine they were floating just above the stairs almost like one escalator going up and the other down.

Above the stairway or even close to Jacob stood the Lord. The Lord then spoke to Jacob saying, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and Isaac. I will give you and all your family to come, the land on which you are lying. Your family will continue to grow through each generation, as much as the dust of the earth" (which is LOTS!).

"All of your family will spread out all over and you will bless those around you. I will always be with you, watching over you and will return you to this land until I have done everything I have promised you."

When Jacob woke up he realized that the Lord had been with him there. He was afraid because of the power and presence of God and said, "How awesome is this place! This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven."

Before he left, Jacob used the stone that he rested his head on and set up a pillar and poured oil on it. This is like a marker for Jacob to remember the dream he had from God and to remember and thank God for the promise He made to him.

He called the place Bethel which means House of God.

