

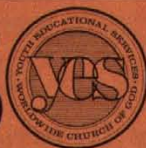
# YOUTH



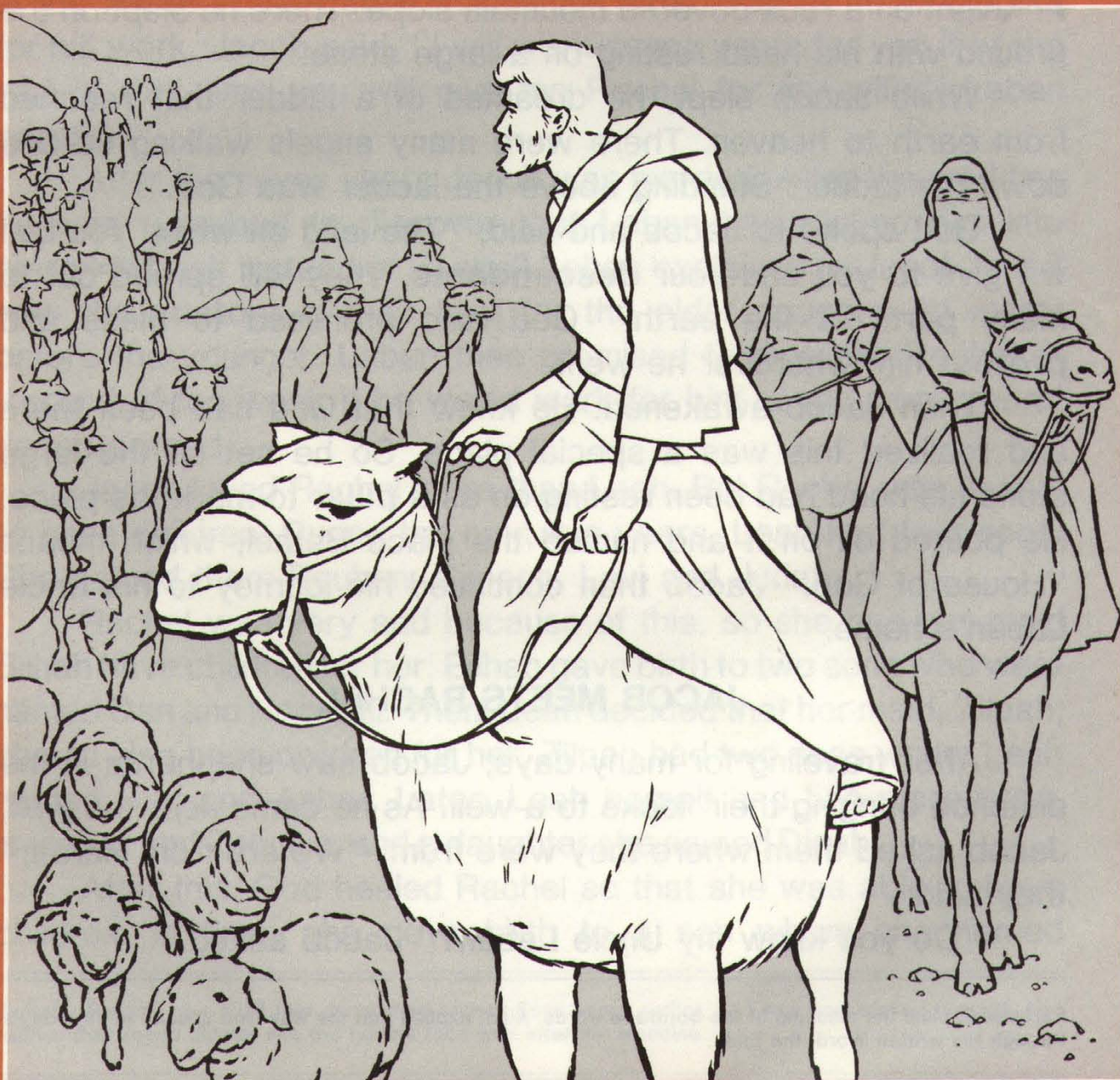
LEVEL 1

# BIBLE

# LESSONS



LESSON 8



Jacob and His Family

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# JACOB AND HIS FAMILY

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**A**fter Jacob left for his Uncle Laban's home, he stopped for the night on a rock-covered mountain slope. There he slept on the ground with his head resting on a large stone.

While Jacob slept, he dreamed of a ladder that reached from earth to heaven. There were many angels walking up and down the ladder. Standing above the ladder was God.

God spoke to Jacob and said, "The land on which you lie I will give to you and your **descendants**. They will spread out to many parts of the earth." God also promised to bless and **protect** him wherever he went.

Then Jacob awakened. He knew that God had been there and realized this was a special place. So he set up the large stone his head had been resting on as a **pillar** to mark the place. He poured oil on it and named the place Bethel, which means "House of God." Jacob then continued his journey to his Uncle Laban's home.

## JACOB MEETS RACHEL

After traveling for many days, Jacob saw shepherds in the distance bringing their flocks to a well. As he came near the well, Jacob asked them where they were from. "We are from Haran," they said.

"Do you know my Uncle Laban?" Jacob asked.

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Parents: Explain the meaning of the **boldface** words. Also, explain that the way God speaks to us today is through His written Word, the Bible.

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“We know him, and he is doing well,” the shepherds answered.

Just then, Laban’s daughter Rachel arrived at the well to water her father’s sheep. As Jacob and Rachel talked, they were excited to learn that they were cousins. Rachel hurried home to tell her father about meeting Jacob.

Laban was happy to see Jacob, and invited him to stay with them. During the next month, Jacob worked around the house and in the fields. When Laban asked him what **wages** he would like for his work, Jacob said, “I will work seven years for you if at the end of that time you will give me Rachel for my wife.” Laban agreed.

After the seven years Jacob was married. After the wedding he was surprised to discover that Laban had tricked him into marrying Leah instead of Rachel! Laban explained to Jacob that it was the **custom** in their land for the older daughter to marry before the younger. Laban then promised to give him Rachel at the end of the week if he would work for him seven more years! Jacob agreed.

Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. But Rachel was unable to have children. During the next five years, Leah had four sons. She named them Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah.

Rachel was very sad because of this, so she had her maid Bilhah have children for her. Bilhah gave birth to two sons who were named Dan and Naphtali. Then, Leah decided that her maid, Zilpah, should also have children for her. Zilpah had two sons whom Leah named Gad and Asher. Later, Leah herself had two more sons, Issachar and Zebulun, and a daughter she named Dinah.

After this, God healed Rachel so that she was able to have children. In time, she gave birth to a son whom she named

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Parents: Remind your child that Jacob had tricked Esau years earlier, and was now tricked himself. Also explain that Jacob did not see the bride’s face until after the wedding.



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Joseph. This made Rachel very happy.

## **JACOB RETURNS TO CANAAN**

At the end of the second seven years, Jacob decided to work for Laban six more years. Altogether he worked a total of twenty years for Laban.

During this time, Jacob's family had grown very large. He had also become very wealthy. Jacob now wanted to leave Laban and return to the land of Canaan where his father Isaac lived. But Laban did not want Jacob to leave. So Jacob and his family left at a time when Laban was away.

Unknown to Jacob, Rachel stole some of her father's images and took them with her. When Laban returned home, he was angry to learn that Jacob and his family had gone. Laban then went after them. After seven days, he caught up with Jacob and his family. Laban searched their tents, but could not find the images. He returned home and Jacob continued on his way.

Nearing the land of Canaan, Jacob learned that his brother Esau and a group of his men were on their way to meet him. Jacob was worried about how Esau, whom he had not seen for twenty years, would treat him when they met. After asking God for protection, Jacob put his men and servants in the front of the caravan and kept his wives and children behind.

Before they met, both groups camped for the night. While his caravan was setting up camp, Jacob stayed a short distance behind to pray.

Suddenly, somebody grabbed him and a wrestling match began. Jacob soon realized that his opponent wasn't an ordinary man. He was the Eternal, the One who later became Jesus Christ!

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Parents: Ask your child why Jacob was worried about meeting Esau.

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The two wrestled all night, but Jacob would not let go until God had blessed him. So God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel.

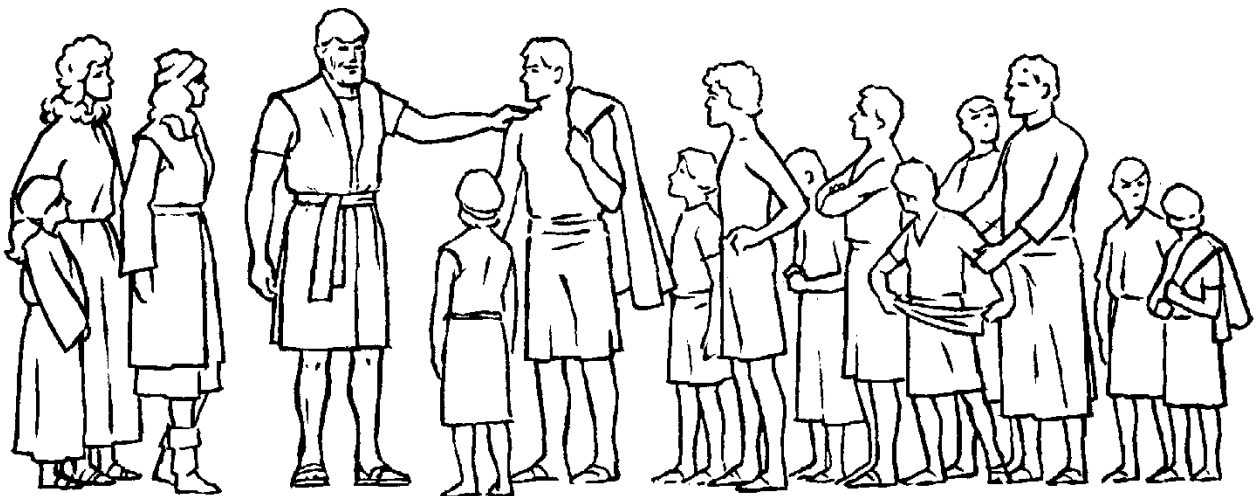
The next morning, as Esau came near, Jacob stepped forward and bowed himself seven times. This was the custom when one wanted to show respect.

Esau came closer and closer, and then rushed toward Jacob and hugged him! The two brothers were happy to be together again. God had answered Jacob's prayer.

After Esau met Jacob's family, he and Jacob went their separate ways. Jacob continued his journey to where Isaac lived. On the way, Rachel gave birth to Jacob's twelfth son, Benjamin. Rachel died after giving birth to Benjamin.

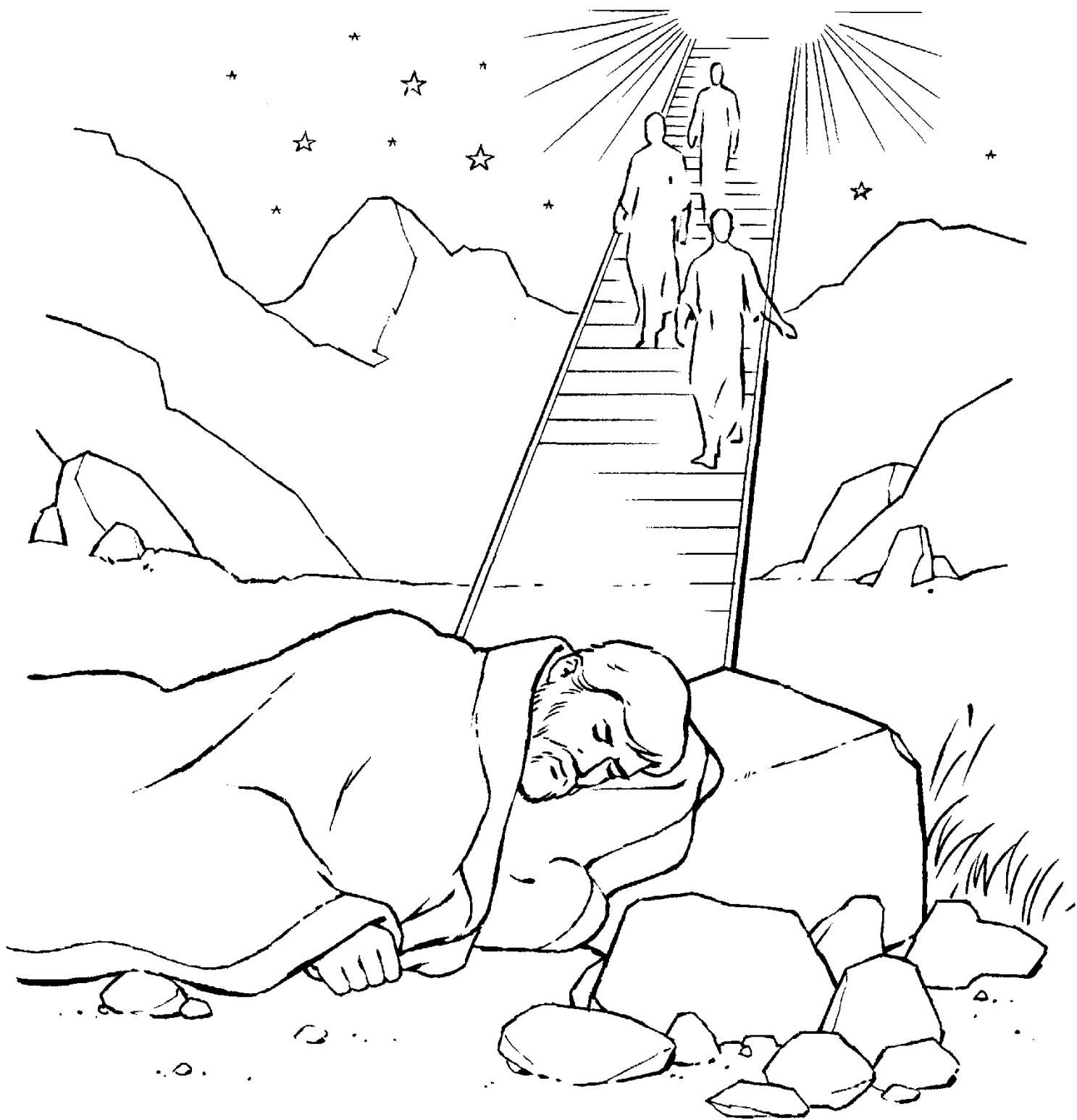
Jacob finally reached the land of Canaan and lived there for many years. His father Isaac died at the age of 180. As Jacob's sons grew older, they helped to tend the sheep. Jacob loved all of his sons, but he had a special love for his son Joseph.

We will learn more about Joseph in the next lesson, and about the many miracles that God worked in his life.



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Parents: Explain that the descendants of Jacob's sons have become certain nations today. Also explain that "Israel" means champion or overcomer.



Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching  
from earth to heaven.

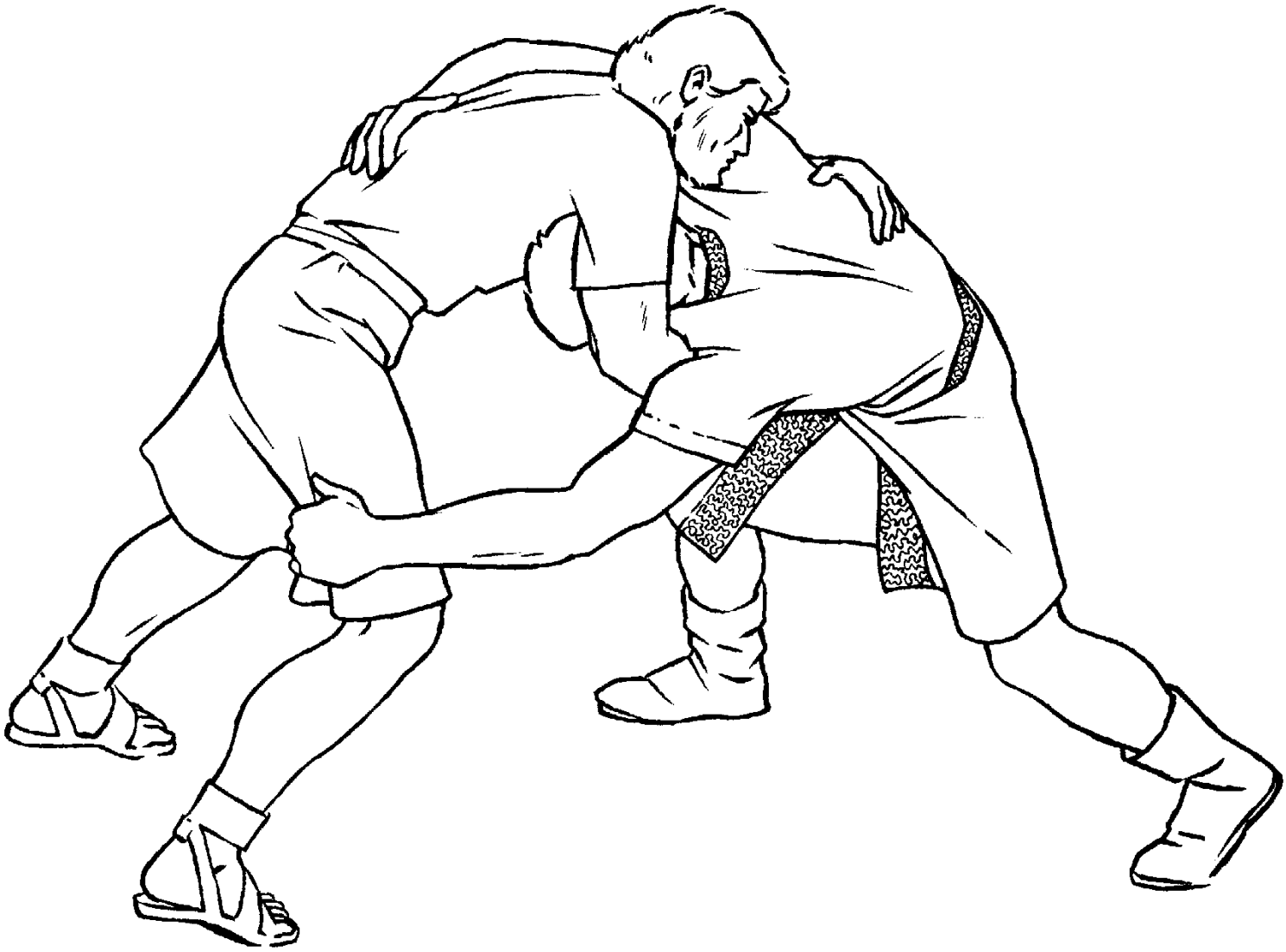


**Jacob agrees to work for Laban seven years  
in order to marry Rachel.**

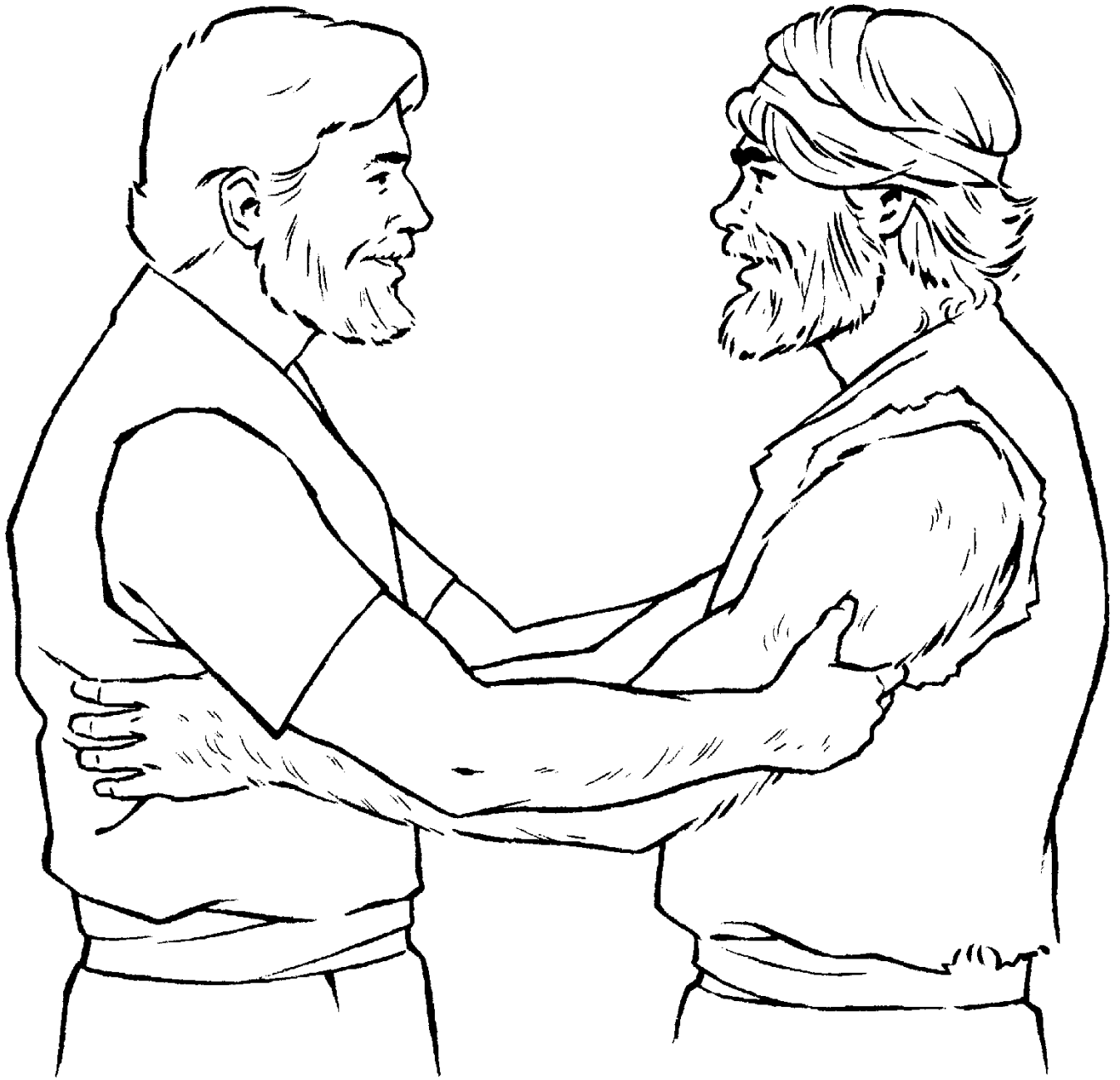


Jacob is shocked when he discovers  
Laban has tricked him into marrying  
his oldest daughter Leah!

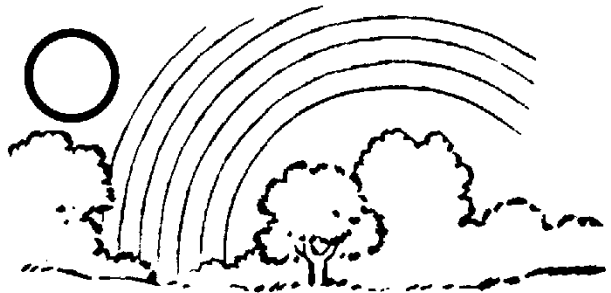
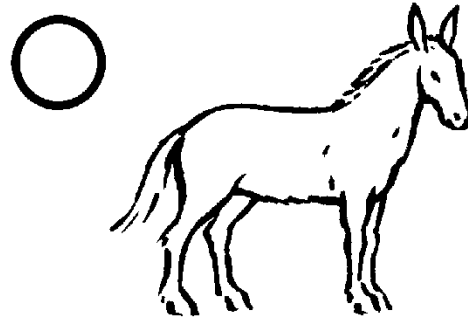
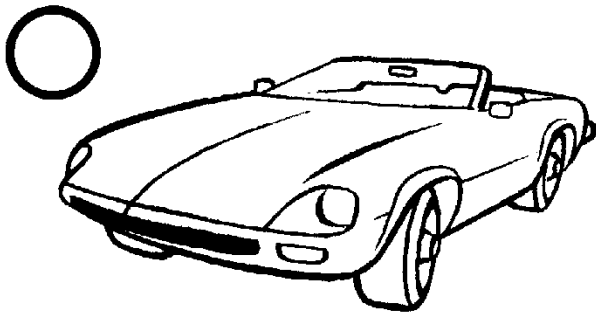
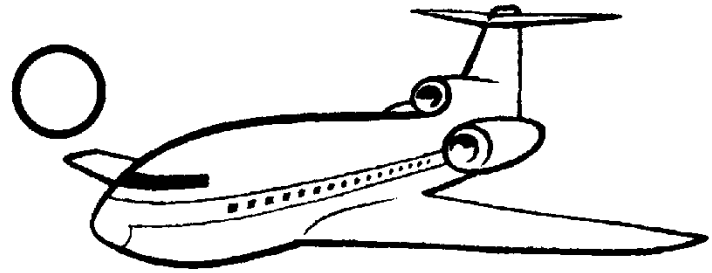
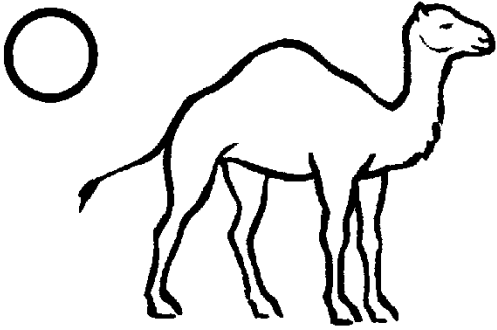
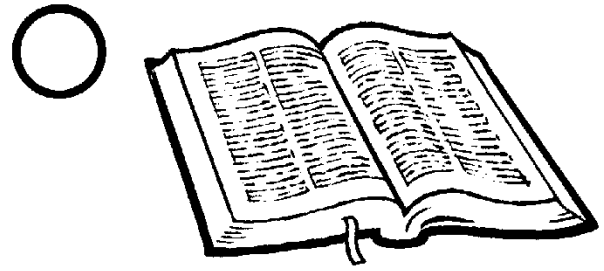
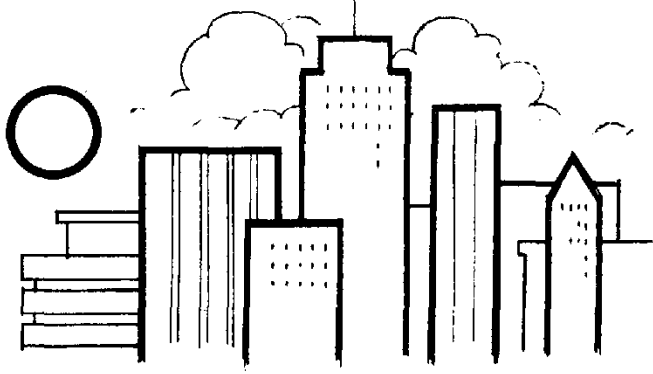




**Jacob wrestles all night with the One who later became Jesus Christ.**



Jacob and his brother Esau  
are happy to see each other.



Write a number 1 in the circles beside the pictures of things Jacob could have seen in his time. Write a number 2 in the circles beside the pictures of things Jacob could not have seen.

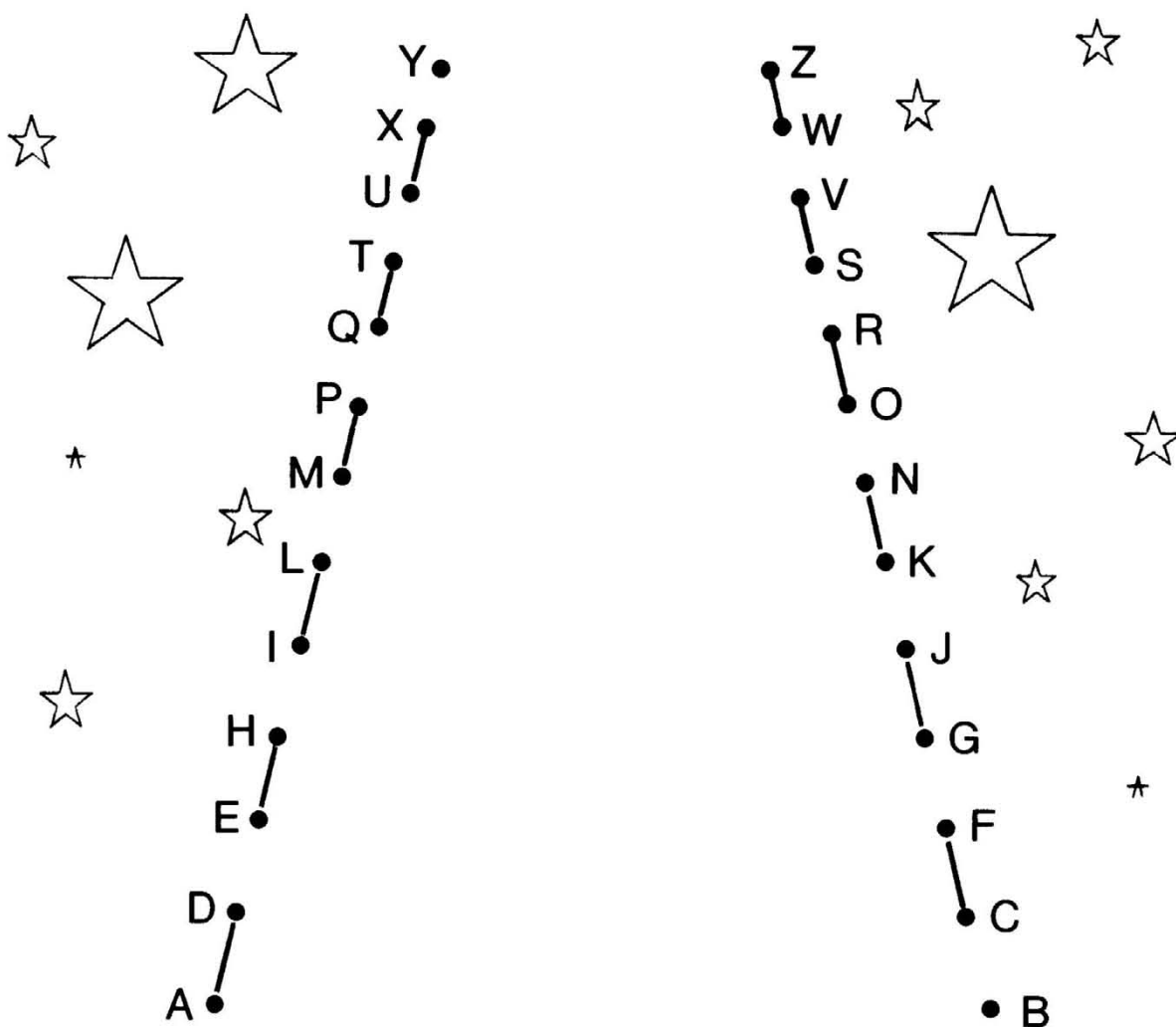
EDITOR IN CHIEF: **Herbert W. Armstrong**

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**BIBLE MEMORY**  
Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods before God.  
You shall not make any graven image of God.  
You shall not take His name in vain.  
Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.  
You shall honor your father and mother.

You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not lie.  
You shall not covet what is your neighbor's.



Connect the dots to find something  
that was in Jacob's dream.