

Child 1 (stranger): Who are you? Why are you travelling down this path?

Child 2 (Jacob): I'm a traveler from afar. I'm journeying to my mother's family, back in Haran.

Child 1: That's a long way - why are you alone? You might be attacked on the road.

Child 2: I'm alone because I am. I believe my God is with me and he will protect me.

Child 1: Really? Why won't the robbers' god protect them instead?

Child 2: Because I had a dream where my God promised to be with me...may I tell you?

Child 1: OK. Let's have a drink and some bread while we talk (produces a roll and flagon and cup containing water, they share using the flagon and the cup)

Child 2: I was travelling until dark yesterday. I realised I needed to sleep, so I found a safe area, hidden behind a rocky outcrop, and I made a pillow from a couple of stones. Then I slept, and I had such a strange dream...I saw a ladder from earth to heaven, with its base just by me. Angels were going up and down

Child 1: Angels? What did they look like?

Child 2: Like you or I, except they had wings, and glowed...

Child 1: Really?

Child 2: Yes. Angels, wings and everything. But beside the angels, I heard a voice. I can only think it was the voice of God, our God, the God of all the earth, as the voice said 'I will be with you wherever you go'. And then the voice said that I would be the father of a great nation, that would spread out across the whole world!

Child 1: Oh my goodness! No small promise then!

Child 2: No. No small promise to a man running away from his family back to his mother's tribe!

Child 1: So what did you do?

Child 2: I woke up, and as I had clearly slept in a sacred space, I built an altar, so others would know...I called the place Beth-El. And then I travelled on, till I met you.

Child 1: How do you feel about this dream now?

Child 2: I feel as if my whole life has changed - I'm not scared any more, I know that God is looking out for me, and will be with me.