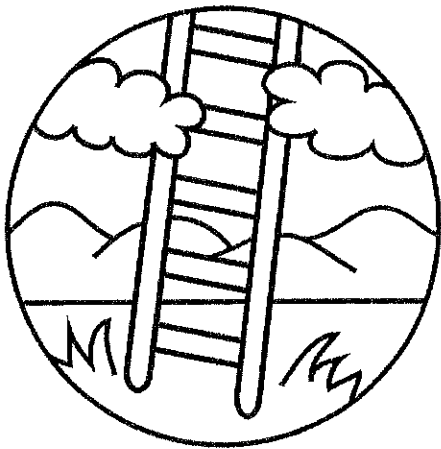


## December 6: Jacob, son of Isaac



When Isaac was about 40 years old, he married Rebekah. They had twin boys named Esau and Jacob. Esau was born first, and in those days that meant because he was the oldest he would inherit the birthright from his father. When Isaac got old and blind, Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing Jacob with the inheritance of being the firstborn son. Later Jacob dreamed about a stairway going to Heaven with angels going up and down. God told Jacob that he would have many descendants, and that he would give him a land for him and his offspring. Jacob is also called Israel. He became the father of twelve sons from whom descended the twelve tribes of Israel. This is how the Jewish nation began.



"Jacob's Ladder" by William Blake  
c. 1800, British Museum, London



**Genesis 25:20, 24-26.**

<sup>20</sup> Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Paddan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian, to be his wife....

<sup>24</sup> When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first came out red all over, like a hairy garment. They named him Esau. <sup>26</sup> After that, his brother came out, and his hand had hold on Esau's heel. He was named Jacob....

**Genesis 27:35-36.** <sup>35</sup> He said, "Your brother came with deceit, and has taken away your blessing." <sup>36</sup> He said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright. See, now he has taken away my blessing." He said, "Haven't you reserved a blessing for me?"...

**Genesis 28:10-17.** <sup>10</sup> Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> He came to a certain place, and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones of the place, and put it under his head, and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He dreamed and saw a stairway set upon the earth, and its top reached to heaven. Behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> Behold, Yahweh stood above it, and said, "I am Yahweh, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. I will give the land you lie on to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup> Your offspring will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your offspring, all the families of the will earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup> Behold, I am with you, and will keep you, wherever you go, and will bring you again into this land. For I will not leave you, until I have done that which I have spoken of to you."

<sup>16</sup> Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, "Surely Yahweh is in this place, and I didn't know it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid, and said, "How awesome this place is! This is none other than God's house, and this is the gate of heaven."

**Genesis 32:27-28.** <sup>27</sup> He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob". <sup>28</sup> He said, "Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have fought with God and with men, and have prevailed."

**Genesis 35:11-12.** <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations will be from you, and kings will come out of your body. <sup>12</sup> The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, and to your offspring after you will I give the land."