

Discussion 18

Ladder Stretching From Earth Unto the Heavens

(Yashar-El, Even the Straight Path to Ha'Elohim)

Primary Content (From 1 Sefer Moses, the Book of Beginnings):

- Chapter 38 - The Deception and the Blessing
- Chapter 39 - The Ladder

Additional Reading (Comparison Texts):

- Genesis 27-28 from the Inspired Version of the Bible
- Matthew 7:24-27 - Build upon the rock (not sand)
- Helaman 5:12 - The Sure Foundation

Objectives:

- Explore the symbolism of numbers woven into the story of Jacob's ladder.

Kabbalistic Concepts:

- Foundation
- 3 - Mothers and Fathers
- 7 - Days or Seasons
- 10 - The Three and Seven combined
- 12 - The Heavens themselves
- 22 - the 10 and 12 combined, together forming a Tree (also there are 22 letters in the alef-bet)

Reading:

Chapter 38 - The Deception and the Blessing			
1 Moses	Inspired Version / JST	KJV	Discussion Ideas
1. And it came to pass that when Isaac was old, and his eyes had grown dull, and he had become blind; he called Esau, his eldest son, and said unto him: My son.	27:1 And it came to pass that when Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau, his eldest son, and said unto him, My son. And he said unto him, Behold, here am I.	27:1. And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.	
2. And Esau said unto him: Behold, here am I.			
3. And Isaac said: Behold, now I am old, I know not the day of my death; therefore, take, I pray thee, thy quiver and thy bow and	27:2 And he said, Behold, now I am old; I know not the day of my death;	27:2. And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:	
	27:3 Now, therefore, take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy	27:3. Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy	

<p>go out to the field and take me some venison, and make me savory meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; and do this that my soul may bless thee before I die.</p>	<p>quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field and take me some venison,</p> <p>27:4 And make me savory meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat, that my soul may bless thee before I die.</p>	<p>quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;</p> <p>27:4. And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.</p>	
<p>4. And now, Rebekah heard that which Isaac said unto Esau, his son; and it came to pass that when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring unto their father, Rebekah came unto Jacob, her son, saying: Behold, I did overhear thy father speak unto Esau, thy brother;</p> <p>5. And your father did say unto him: Bring me venison and make me savory meat, that I may eat and bless thee in the Face of YHVH before my death.</p>	<p>27:5 And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau, his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison and to bring it.</p> <p>27:6 And Rebekah spake unto Jacob, her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau, thy brother, saying,</p> <p>27:7 Bring me venison and make me savory meat, that I may eat and bless thee before the Lord before my death.</p>	<p>27:5. And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it.</p> <p>27:6. And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,</p> <p>27:7. Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the Lord before my death.</p>	
<p>6. Now, therefore my son, listen to my voice and do according to that which I command thee:</p> <p>7. Go now to the flock and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savory meat for thy father, such as he loveth; and thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat and that he may bless thee before his death.</p>	<p>27:8 Now, therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.</p> <p>27:9 Go now to the flock and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savory meat for thy father, such as he loveth;</p> <p>27:10 And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat and that he may bless thee before his death.</p>	<p>27:8. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.</p> <p>27:9. Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:</p> <p>27:10. And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.</p>	
<p>8. And Jacob replied unto Rebekah, his mother, saying: Behold, Esau, my brother, is a hairy man; and I am a smooth man; perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me and</p>	<p>27:11 And Jacob said to Rebekah, his mother, Behold, Esau, my brother, is a hairy man; and I am a smooth man;</p> <p>27:12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a</p>	<p>27:11. And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man:</p> <p>27:12. My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a</p>	

<p>not a blessing.</p> <p>9. And his mother returned to him, saying: Am I not a Priestess of El Elyon, the Most High God? Why should I do this, except YHVH hath bade me; therefore, obey my voice and go fetch me them.</p> <p>10. And Jacob went out and fetched the two kid goats and brought them to his mother; and his mother made savory meat, such as his father loved.</p>	<p>deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me and not a blessing.</p> <p>27:13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son; only obey my voice and go fetch me them.</p> <p>27:14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother; and his mother made savory meat, such as his father loved.</p>	<p>deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.</p> <p>27:13. And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.</p> <p>27:14. And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.</p>	
<p>11. And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and she bade Jacob to remove the garments of Adam and Eve that Esau had taken and sold unto him for the soup; and she put the garments of Esau upon Jacob, her younger son;</p> <p>12. And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands and upon the smooth of his neck; and she gave the savory meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.</p>	<p>27:15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob, her younger son;</p> <p>27:16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands and upon the smooth of his neck;</p> <p>27:17 And she gave the savory meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.</p>	<p>27:15. And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:</p> <p>27:16. And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:</p> <p>27:17. And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.</p>	
<p>13. ¶ And then came Jacob unto his father, saying: My father!</p> <p>14. And he said, Here am I; Who art thou, which of my sons art thou?</p> <p>15. And Jacob lied unto his father, saying: I am Esau, thy firstborn; I have done according as thou asked me.</p> <p>16. Arise, I pray thee; sit, and eat of this game that I have hunted, that thou</p>	<p>27:18 And he came unto his father and said, My father. And he said, Here am I. Who art thou, my son?</p> <p>27:19 And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau, thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me; arise, I pray thee, sit, and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.</p>	<p>27:18. And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son?</p> <p>27:19. And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy first born; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.</p>	

<p>should bless me, even unto thy very soul.</p>			
<p>17. But Isaac thought he might have been tricked, and asked his son: How is it that thou hast found meat so quickly, my son?</p> <p>18. And Jacob answered him, saying: YHVH, thy Elohim, brought it to me.</p> <p>19. And Isaac was not pacified and he said unto Jacob: Come near unto me, I pray thee, and kiss me, that I may feel thee, my son, and by this shall I know if thou be my very son Esau or not.</p>	<p>27:20 And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the Lord, thy God, brought it to me.</p> <p>27:21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.</p> <p>(note, the verse re-ordering)</p> <p>27:26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now and kiss me, my son.</p>	<p>27:20. And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the Lord thy God brought it to me.</p> <p>27:21. And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.</p> <p>27:26. And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.</p>	
<p>20. And Jacob came close to his father, Isaac, and kissed him;</p> <p>21. And Isaac felt him, saying: The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau; and he discerned him not for his hands were hairy as his brother Esau's hands.</p> <p>22. And Isaac asked him again: Art thou my very son Esau?</p> <p>23. And Jacob lied a third time, saying: I am.</p> <p>24. And Isaac did pray unto YHVH in his heart; and he did smell the scent of the raiment his son wore, and said: The smell of my son is as the smell of a field which YHVH hath blessed</p>	<p>27:27 And he came near and kissed him. And he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed;</p> <p>(note, the verse re-ordering)</p> <p>27:22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac, his father; and he felt him and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.</p> <p>27:23 And he discerned him not because his hands were hairy as his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.</p> <p>27:24 And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.</p>	<p>27:27. And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed:</p> <p>27:22. And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.</p> <p>27:23. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.</p> <p>27:24. And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.</p>	
<p>25. And being thus pacified, Isaac said: Bring the meat near to me, and I will eat of the venison of my son, I shall bless thee, giving thee</p>	<p>27:25 And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and</p>	<p>27:25. And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and</p>	

<p>a blessing from my very soul unto thy soul.</p> <p>26. ¶ And Jacob brought the meat near to his father, and Isaac did eat; and Jacob brought him wine, and Isaac drank.</p>	<p>he did eat; and he brought him wine, and he drank.</p>	<p>he did eat: and he brought him wine and he drank.</p>	
<p>27. And Isaac blessed his son, saying: Ha'Elohim give unto thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and an abundance of grains and wines;</p> <p>28. And many tribes shall serve thee, and nations bow down before thee; and thou shall be a lord over thy brethren, and even the sons of thy mother shall bow down to thee and thy seed;</p> <p>29. And unto those that would curse thee and thy seed shall be accursed, and to those that would bless thee and thy seed shall come a blessing;</p>	<p>27:28 Therefore, God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine;</p> <p>27:29 Let people serve thee and nations bow down to thee; be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee; cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.</p>	<p>27:28. Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:</p> <p>27:29. Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.</p>	
<p>30. And unto thee I do give the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever thou shall bind on the earth shall be bound in the heavens, and whatever thou loose upon earth shall be loosed in the heavens.</p>			
<p>31. ¶ And it came to pass that Esau, the brother of Jacob, came in from his hunting soon after Isaac did finish blessing Jacob.</p> <p>32. And Esau also had made a savory meat, and did bring it unto his father, and said unto Isaac: Let my father arise and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.</p>	<p>27:30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac, his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.</p> <p>27:31 And he also had made savory meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise and eat of his</p>	<p>27:30. And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.</p> <p>27:31. And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of</p>	

<p>33. And his father, Isaac, did say unto him: Who art thou?</p> <p>34. And Esau answered him, saying: I am thy son, Esau, thy firstborn.</p>	<p>son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.</p> <p>27:32 And Isaac, his father, said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn, Esau.</p>	<p>his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.</p> <p>27:32. And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.</p>	
<p>35. And Isaac trembled very exceedingly and said: Who was it then that had hunted the game, and brought it to me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest? For I did eat and have blessed him; and indeed, he shall be blessed, for this was the will of YHVH in all things.</p> <p>36. And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry and said unto his father: Bless me, even me also, O my father!</p>	<p>27:33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly and said, Who? Where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? Yea, and he shall be blessed.</p> <p>27:34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.</p>	<p>27:33. And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.</p> <p>27:34. And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.</p>	
<p>37. And Isaac was saddened and said unto his first born: Thy brother came with subtlety and hath taken away thy blessing, as I knew he should, but in my heart I wished it not so;</p> <p>38. Yet the will of YHVH has been done, despite the selfish desires of my flesh.</p> <p>39. And Esau said in his bitterness: Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he hath supplanted me these two times: He took away my birthright; and behold, now he hath taken away my blessing.</p> <p>40. And then unto his father he pleaded: Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?</p> <p>41. And Isaac answered his son and said unto Esau: Behold, I have made him</p>	<p>27:35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtlety and hath taken away thy blessing.</p> <p>27:36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he hath supplanted me these two times: He took away my birthright; and behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?</p> <p>27:37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him. And what shall I do now unto thee, my son?</p>	<p>27:35. And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.</p> <p>27:36. And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?</p> <p>27:37. And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?</p>	

<p>thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him.</p> <p>42. And what shall I do now unto thee, my son?</p>			
<p>43. And Esau lifted up his voice and wept before his father, saying: Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.</p> <p>44. And Isaac, his father, answered and blessed him, saying: Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth and of the dew of heaven from above; and by thy sword shalt thou live and shalt serve thy brother;</p> <p>45. And it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.</p>	<p>27:38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.</p> <p>27:39 And Isaac, his father, answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth and of the dew of heaven from above;</p> <p>27:40 And by thy sword shalt thou live and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.</p>	<p>27:38. And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.</p> <p>27:39. And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;</p> <p>27:40. And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.</p>	

Chapter 39 - The Ladder

1 Moses	Inspired Version / JST	KJV	Discussion Ideas
<p>1. And it came to pass that because Jacob had taken the birthright, and the holy garments, and the blessing from Esau that Esau hated Jacob;</p> <p>2. And because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him, Esau said in his heart: The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.</p> <p>3. And these words of Esau, her elder son, were told to Rebekah by the angel of YHVH, and she sent and called Jacob, her younger son.</p> <p>4. ¶ And it came to pass that when Rebekah did see Jacob, she did say unto him: Surely Esau, thy brother, doth comfort his pity by plotting to kill thee!</p>	<p>27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him; and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.</p> <p>27:42 And these words of Esau, her elder son, were told to Rebekah; and she sent and called Jacob, her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee.</p>	<p>27:41. And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.</p> <p>27:42. And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee.</p>	
<p>5. Now, therefore, my son, obey my voice and arise; flee thou to Laban, my brother, to Haran, and tarry with him a few days, until the fury of thy brother subsides;</p> <p>6. For in time shall the anger of thy brother turn away from thee, and he shall forget that which thou hast done to him; then I will send and fetch thee from thence.</p>	<p>27:43 Now, therefore, my son, obey my voice and arise; flee thou to Laban, my brother, to Haran,</p> <p>27:44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away,</p> <p>27:45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee and he forget that which thou hast done to him; then I will send and fetch thee from thence. Why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?</p>	<p>27:43. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran;</p> <p>27:44. And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;</p> <p>27:45. Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?</p>	
<p>7. ¶ And it came to pass that Rebekah went unto her husband, Isaac, saying: I am</p>	<p>27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of</p>	<p>27:46. And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of</p>	

<p>dreading to my very life that my son might take to marriage of the daughters of Heth;</p> <p>8. If Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life be unto me?</p> <p>9. For have I not taught my sons of YHVH? and these women worship the elohim made of the hands of men.</p>	<p>Heth; if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?</p>	<p>Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?</p>	
<p>10. And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, saying unto him: Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan as thy brother Esau hath done.</p> <p>11. Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, thy mother's father, and from amongst these take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of thy mother's brother, Laban.</p> <p>12. And Elohim Shaddai shall bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou shalt be a great company of people,</p>	<p>28:1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.</p> <p>28:2 Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, thy mother's father, and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban, thy mother's brother.</p> <p>28:3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people,</p>	<p>28:1. And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.</p> <p>28:2. Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.</p> <p>28:3. And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;</p>	
<p>13. And then shall thou be given of Elohim the blessings of our father, Abraham, to thee and to thy seed with thee, that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which Elohim did give us, being the very seed of Abraham.</p> <p>14. And Isaac sent away Jacob; and he went to Padan-aram unto Laban, son of Bethuel, the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the</p>	<p>28:4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee and to thy seed with thee, that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.</p> <p>28:5 And Isaac sent away Jacob; and he went to Padan-aram unto Laban, son of Bethuel, the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob and Esau's mother.</p>	<p>28:4. And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.</p> <p>28:5. And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.</p>	

<p>mother of Jacob and Esau.</p>			
<p>15. ¶ And it came to pass that Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob again, sending him away to Padan-aram to take him a wife from thence,</p> <p>16. And that their father had blessed him, commanding him, saying: Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan, and that Jacob obeyed their father and mother and was gone to Padan-aram.</p>	<p>28:6 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan-aram to take him a wife from thence, and that, as he blessed him, he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan,</p> <p>28:7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother and was gone to Padan-aram,</p>	<p>28:6. When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;</p> <p>28:7. And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram;</p>	
<p>17. And it came to pass that Esau, seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father, went unto the seed of Ishmael with his wives to take unto himself another wife.</p> <p>18. And it came to pass that Esau took Mahalath, a daughter of Ishmael, a son of Abraham, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife, and she too was not of the Covenant, she being of the seed of Sarah, but not of Abraham as was Isaac, Jacob, and Esau.</p>	<p>28:8 And Esau, seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father,</p> <p>28:9 Then went Esau unto Ishmael and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.</p>	<p>28:8. And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;</p> <p>28:9. Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.</p>	
<p>19. ¶ And it came to pass that Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran; and when the sun was set he did find a suitable place to tarried all the night;</p> <p>20. And he took a certain stone from the ground, placing it beneath his head for a pillow, and lay down in that place to sleep.</p>	<p>28:10 And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.</p> <p>28:11 And he lighted upon a certain place and tarried there all night because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.</p>	<p>28:10. And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.</p> <p>28:11. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.</p>	
<p>21. And it came to pass that he dreamed a dream and beheld a vision: and he saw</p>	<p>28:12 And he dreamed: and behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it</p>	<p>28:12. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it</p>	

<p>a ladder set up upon the foundation, stretching from the earth unto the heavens, Yashar-El, even the straight path unto Ha'Elohim;</p>	<p>reached to heaven,</p>	<p>reached to heaven:</p>	
<p>22. And the ladder had ten and twelve steps, making for twenty-two steps in all:</p> <p>23. And three of the ten were Mothers and Fathers from which the wind and the fire of the Spirit, and water with its mercy came out;</p> <p>24. And the other seven of the ten were in duplication, being the seven days and the seven seasons;</p> <p>25. And twelve were the heavens themselves, and were the signs given mankind, and their passions, thrusting forth in all direction.</p> <p>26. And all these were a tree deeply rooted into the earth and stretching upwards into the heavens:</p> <p>27. And the tree was a flame, yet it did not burn; for this was the fire of the judgment, with the very flames rolling to the North and to the South, and sealed unto the East and the West.</p>			
<p>28. And lo, he did see the malak of Elohim, and even the very Melek Olum ascending and descending the straight path, speaking in the tongues of the cherubim.</p>	<p>and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending upon it.</p>	<p>and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.</p>	<p>Malak of Elohim: Messengers of God(s).</p> <p>Melek: King Olam: Universe Melek Olum: "King of Creation" or "Eternal Holy One"</p>
<p>29. And behold, YHVH stood above, saying: I am Ahyeh Asher Ahyeh, the Creator; YHVH, the Elohim of Abraham, thy father, and the Elohim of Isaac; the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed:</p> <p>30. And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth; and thou shalt spread abroad to the West, and to the East, and to the North, and to the South; and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.</p> <p>31. Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest,</p>	<p>28:13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac; the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed;</p> <p>28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth; and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south; and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.</p> <p>28:15 And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee</p>	<p>28:13. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;</p> <p>28:14. And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.</p> <p>28:15. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring</p>	

<p>and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee.</p>	<p>again into this land; for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.</p>	<p>thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.</p>	
<p>32. ¶ And when Jacob awoke from out of his sleep he said: Surely YHVH Elohim is in this place; and I knew it not.</p> <p>33. And he was sore afraid and said: How formidable is this place! This is none other but the house of Elohim, and this place is a gate or portal to the heavens!</p>	<p>28:16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.</p> <p>28:17 And he was afraid and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.</p>	<p>28:16. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.</p> <p>28:17. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.</p>	
<p>34. ¶ And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the seer or holy stone that he had used for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured special oils upon the top of it.</p> <p>35. And he named that place Bethel, for that place was the house of Ha'Elohim.</p> <p>36. And Jacob on that very spot he made an oath, saying: If Elohim will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, that I come again to the house of my father in peace, then shall YHVH be my Elohim;</p>	<p>28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.</p> <p>28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.</p> <p>28:20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on,</p> <p>28:21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace, then shall the Lord be my God;</p>	<p>28:18. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.</p> <p>28:19. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.</p> <p>28:20. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,</p> <p>28:21. So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God:</p>	
<p>37. And where I place this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be built a temple, the House of Elohim, for YHVH and for El Elyon and for Shekinah:</p> <p>38. And of all that Ha'Elohim shall give me, I will surely give a tenth back unto these.</p>	<p>28:22 And the place of this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be the place of God's house; and of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee.</p>	<p>28:22. And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.</p>	

Engage:

Engage the Text through Investigation

Consider the numbers that are mentioned in the description of the ladder (ch 39:20-21). I've listed them below with the short descriptions it gives for each. Take some time to make notes of any other places where these same numbers are being used, and what their meanings are in those other places.

From v22:

- There are 22 steps on this ladder, broken into 2 subgroups: $10 + 12 = 22$

From v23-24:

- The 10 steps are further broken down into 2 more subgroups: $3 + 7 = 10$
- The First 3 were Mothers and Fathers, and things flow out of (or are borne out of) them
- The other 7 were Days/Seasons ... they are also "in duplication" or "doubles"

From v25:

- The other 12 steps are the Heavens themselves. ... which appears to be in reference to the stars and other celestial objects, since back in chapter 3:23-24 they are the signs given mankind, and their passions, thrusting forth in all directions. The way I "visualize" this is that the stars are the outer curtain of knowable creation, the pillars of eternity. These 12 encircle creation, and also extend out infinitely. (Metaphorically, of course)

From v26:

- These 22 steps, together could be thought of as a tree (instead of a ladder, if you wish) with roots that go down deep into creation, and branches that go up and out eternally into the heavens.

From v27:

- This tree, is like the burning bush, which Moses describes as being aflame, but not consumed by the flame.
- Also, this whole thing can be conceptualized like a compass, where the directions of the compass are somehow related to the ladder/tree/burning bush.

Notes on the Hebrew Letters

It's interesting to note that this ladder is unmistakably supposed to remind us of the Hebrew letters. I don't want to imply that this is the "only" intended meaning for all of these numbers, or even that it is an important connection. But there is an "obvious" correlation going on. Here are some noteworthy similarities:

- There are 22 Hebrew letters.
- 3 of those 22 are the Mothers, (Alef, Mem, and Sin) and they are associated with air, water and fire.
- 7 of those 22 are the Doubles. These are letters that have a hard and soft sound (Bet, Gimel, Dalet, Kaf, Peh, Resh)
- The other 12 complete the alef-bet: (Hei, Vav, Zayin, Chet, Tet, Yod, Lamed, Nun, Samekh, Ayin, Tzadi, Qof, Tav)

Engage the Concepts through Comparison

Consider the places within this course where these same numbers have already been introduced, and whether or not their use here is connected to their use there. The 3 houses, the 12 righteous, the 7 days of creation. The 22...?

Engage the Spirit through Contemplation

In 39:20-31, we have a description of Jacob's Dream of the Ladder connecting the earth to the heavens; it has multiple kabbalistic concepts that I think are worth pondering.

- The bottom of the ladder is set up upon a Foundation. What is that foundation? Why does it need a foundation? ... Contemplate the Foundation.
- The ladder is also a tree, which is aflame but not consumed. What is the burning bush?
- The ladder is a connection between earth and heaven, where heavenly beings ascend and descend. What is the ladder? Does this ladder bring the earth to the heavens, or the heavens to the earth?

Engage the Group through Discussion

When you meet together as a group to discuss the content of these chapters, here are some ideas to help get the discussion going:

- The entire deception/blessing chapter (38) is bizarre. What are your thoughts? How are we supposed to use this story in our own journey?
- In 38:30, Isaac gives Jacob the keys of the kingdom of heaven. This is a very "new testament" idea. What do you make of that? Does this change the way you view the keys of the kingdom? Does it change the way you view the old testament view of the kingdom? What is the "fall out" of this concept being used at this time period?