

God's Everlasting Covenant
Presents

The Stone

Jacob departed from Beersheva and went toward Haran. He encountered the place and spent the night there because the sun had set; he took from the stones of the place which he arranged around his head, and lay down in that place. And he dreamt, and behold! A ladder was set earthward and its top reached heavenward; and behold! Angels of God were ascending and descending on it... Jacob arose early in the morning and took the stone that he placed around his head and set it up as a pillar; and he poured oil on its top. And he named that place Beth-el...

Genesis 28:10-19

It is really fun to search for and find the Messiah in the *Torah* portions. This has been my quest for almost three years now, since discovering the depth and meaning of what I believe through studying the Hebrew roots of my faith. The above passage is one of the places where we encounter our Messiah, Yeshua. It is also one of the most well known passages of scripture where Jacob had his amazing dream about the ladder descending from heaven when returning to the Land God had promised to Abraham's descendants. He had been out of the Land for 20 years serving his greedy Uncle Laban. After leaving the place of seven wells, he came to "the place." What is this place? The scriptures tell us it is "the abode of God." Some of the sages teach that it can only be Mt. Moriah, the Temple Mount. This is the place where God has placed His name forever. And so Jacob calls it Beth-el. *Beth* is "house" and *El* is the name for God: House of God. Many others believe Beth-El is near present-day Ramallah, about 10 miles east of Jerusalem. No matter where the location, it is indeed the place where heaven and earth intersect, and the ladder upon which angels are ascending and descending. What is, or rather *who* is the ladder? The ladder is none other than our Messiah, the Son of God. Listen to the words which He spoke about Himself.

And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

John 1:51

Our Messiah is the ladder, bridging eternity over the impassable chasm which exists between heaven and earth. He is the only way to the Father in heaven.

But the ladder is not the only picture of our Messiah in this passage. He is also the stone. The first thing to notice is that Jacob takes several stones from the place and lays them around his head. And the "stones" become one stone that he sets up as a pillar. The word in Hebrew for "stone" is **אבן**. The Hebrew word picture has something deeper to tell us. Reading from right to left, the *aleph* is the first letter. In the paleo-Hebrew, Moses drew it as an ox head, and it means "strength" or "leader." The next letters are *bet* and *nun*. The *bet* was a picture of a house, and the *nun* was a fish darting through water and meant the quickening of life. So, one meaning is: the strength of the house of life. There is a second way to understand

the word picture. Standing alone, the *aleph* is also the letter which represents the Father. In fact, the *aleph* and *bet* together spell *av* or “father.” The next two letters, *bet* and *nun* together spell *ben*, which means “son.” So this word for stone can also mean: father and son! There is yet a third way to interpret this word *even*. The *aleph* means “strong” and as we’ve already mentioned, the next two letters, spell “son.” So, the meaning here is: the strong son. The stone is the strong son!

Jacob then erects the stone as a pillar and pours oil on it. He is anointing the strong son, who is *Moshiach*, which means “the anointed one,” our Messiah!

There is one more thing that can only be seen in the Hebrew. Although there isn’t time to go through a thorough teaching on the subject, suffice it to say that throughout the Scriptures, there are places where words are preceded by two letters, *aleph* and *tav*. In Hebrew, these two letters spell *et*, and they represent a grammatical structure that is not translated in English, but in Hebrew, places emphasis on the direct object that follows the *et*. The word for stone is *et-even*, אֶת-אֶבֶן . The *aleph* is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and the *tav* is the last letter. In Greek, the corresponding letters are the *alpha* and *omega*. It’s like saying in English, “A to Z.” The mystery of the *aleph-tav* , which appears throughout the *Tanakh* over 11,000 times was finally explained by Yeshua in the last book of our Bible.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:8

And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.”

Revelation 21:6

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

Revelation 22:13

When Yeshua spoke these words, He was not speaking Greek. He would have been speaking in Hebrew. He would have said, “I am the *aleph* and the *tav*...” In this passage of the scriptures, the Hebrew is clearly placing an emphasis on the word for “stone.” We could say it is the “*aleph-tav* stone.” It is the stone which existed from the beginning to the end, it is the “first and last stone.”

Speaking of Himself, our Master said:

“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”

Matthew 21:44

When we choose to fall upon the stone, who is Messiah, we are choosing to be broken. We are choosing to humble ourselves and in our brokenness, He makes us whole. But if we will not allow ourselves to be broken and remain prideful, the stone will grind us to powder. We

will be destroyed. It is a vivid picture of the requirements of following our humble Master and walking the same way He walked.

And also Peter wrote:

“Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”

I Peter 2:8

Let’s not stumble over the stone. Let us throw ourselves upon Him willingly and allow Him to break us, to break our pride. For us who believe, He is the cornerstone of our faith. He is the one who holds all things together, and He will make us whole. He is the stone upon which we can lay our weary heads. He is the ladder which has come down from heaven, spanning across the bottomless pit which once separated us from our Father forever. He is the place that intersects heaven and earth, upon whom we can rest. He is not the rock of offense for us who have come to trust in Him. Rather, He is also the Rock from which our fathers drank in the wilderness.

“...and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Messiah.”

I Corinthians 10:4

He who drinks from this Rock, will never thirst again!