

“SUMMER JOURNEYS”
JUNE 2009

Summertime is coming. For many it will be a time for taking trips to visit family or friends who live in other states. Others will explore state and national parks and marvel at the beauty of nature. As I write this article, I am reading through the Book of Genesis. Chapters 28-31 describe Jacob’s journey from Beer-sheba to Haran to meet Rachel, his future bride. It was a trip of over 300 miles. God gives Jacob this promise, “Remember, I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land.” (Gen. 28:15) In ancient times, each village had their own deity. A town believed that its local god would protect the surrounding region. If one traveled to another village, you would enter the area under the control of that local deity. The account of Jacob’s journey is unique because the God of the Bible promises to guide him and not leave his side. Jacob’s God was not limited by geography. The one true God did not have to fear going into the territory of other deities. Jacob’s pursuit of Rachael is a journey filled with twists and turns. The one constant element is the continued presence of Almighty God. Jacob could always count on the divine promise of guidance and protection.

As we go on our summer journeys, the God of Jacob gives us the same promise. Believers can depend on God’s presence whether they are camping by a local lake or visiting family in another state. I’m taking a class in New Haven, Connecticut during the fourth week of June. I’ll fly from Tampa to Hartford and then take a bus to New Haven. The bus ride from Hartford to New Haven goes through some beautiful forests. The wooded sections of Highway 91 provide a peaceful moment before one enters the urban busyness of downtown New Haven. The God who journeyed with Jacob is the same God who is present in both the beauty of nature and the bustle of the city. Enjoy your journeys this summer!

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