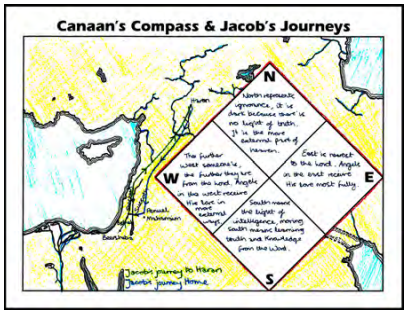
Look Closer:
Canaan's Compass

At a Glance:
This map activity about the land of Canaan introduces the New Church concept that there is a relationship between the physical features of the land of Canaan and spiritual ideas. When seen spiritually the land of Canaan is a picture of heaven. The directions north, south, east and west reflect a person's relationship with the Lord. When the Word mentions east, it is describing states when we are closest to the Lord. The west indicates being at a further distance from the Lord. The clear light of intelligence shines in the south. The light of intelligence is darker and more obscure in the north. Students will trace Jacob's journeys on the map of Canaan and note the meanings of the directions that Jacob traveled.



Supplies Needed for Each Student:

- blank map to complete
- *Canaan's Compass* student page
- pencil or pen
- colored pencils or markers
- one or two *Teacher Copy* maps for the class to share
- *optional:* large contour map of the land of Canaan to show students

Directions:

1. Tell students that today we will take a look at Jacob's journeys with a special view to the directions he traveled. Each compass direction has a special spiritual meaning.
2. Read *Canaan's Compass* student page with the class.
3. Using the *Canaan's Compass* student page, write a brief summary of the meaning of each compass direction in the compass boxes on the map of Canaan.
4. Name the main cities Jacob visited.
5. Draw the route of Jacob's journeys using the *Teacher Copy* as a guide. Think about the directions Jacob traveled as you complete the map.

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Canaan's Compass

The four corners of the earth mean all states of the goodness of love and the truth of faith. East and west mean varying states of the goodness of love, and south and north mean varying states of the truth of faith (see *Arcana Coelestia* 9642).

Have you ever noticed how many times north, south, east and west are mentioned in the Word? Look up the following passages to find out what is being described.

Reference from the Word	What is described?
Genesis 2:8	
Numbers 2:3,10,18,25	
Luke 13:29	
Revelation 21:13	

Why are these directions important? What clues do the directions give us about what is happening spiritually in the Word?

East

The east has long been regarded as sacred. It is where the sun rises. Many religions turn toward the east to worship. Some cultures bury their dead facing the east. In heaven the Lord appears in the east as the heavenly sun. So angels turning toward the east in heaven are turning their minds towards the Lord so that they can receive His love (warmth) and wisdom (light). The angels who live in the east part of heaven receive the Lord's love most fully into their lives in childlike innocence (*Divine Love and Wisdom* 121). When east is mentioned in the Word it signals a state in which people are especially receiving the Lord's love. When the human race was in its infancy people loved the Lord and lived in a garden "towards the east" (Genesis 2:8).

West

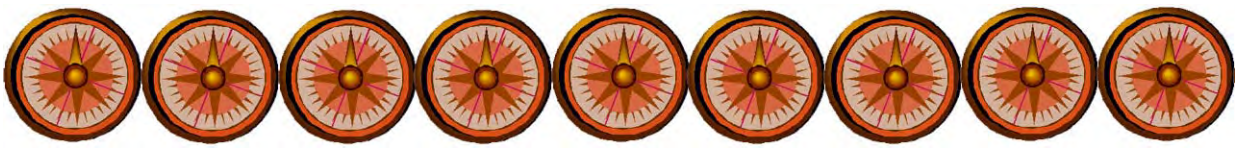
When an angel turns toward the east, his or her back faces west—towards the sunset. The further someone moves towards the west, the further he or she moves away from the Lord. People living in the west in heaven receive the Lord's love in more external ways. They still love the Lord, but less than those in the east.

South

In Canaan the south receives full sunlight. When we see things in sunlight, we see them clearly. Truth in the Word is often compared to light. An ability to see natural objects in greater light is like the capacity for seeing spiritual things in the light of more truth. South means the clear light of intelligence. People who live in the south in heaven live in the light of what is good and true in the Word (*Arcana Coelestia* 9642).

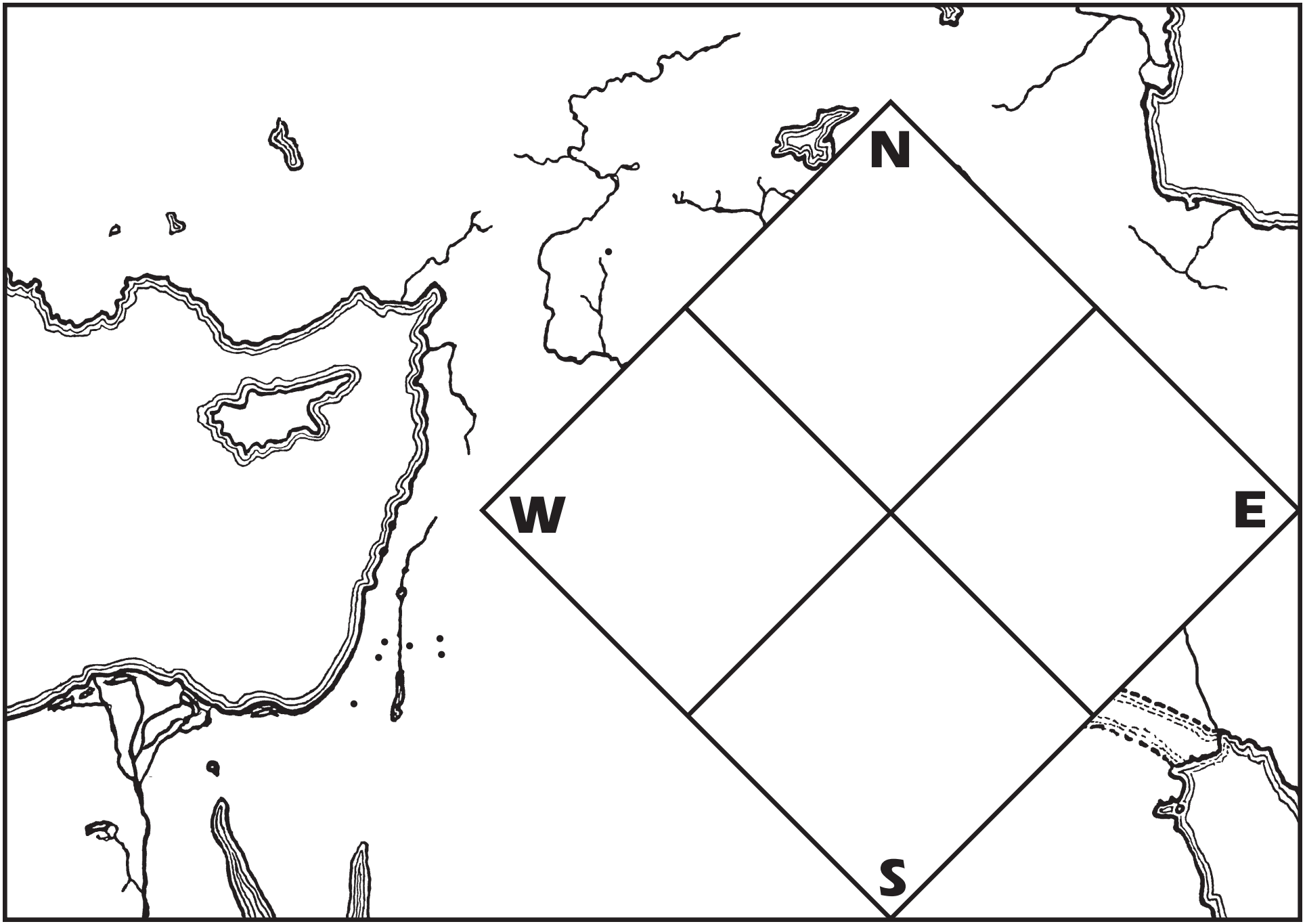
North

The north is the darkest of all directions. In Canaan whatever faces north is in shadow. Spiritually speaking people living in the north do not have the light of truth. They live in the darkness of ignorance. The north is a more external part of heaven. Angels who live there receive less of the Lord's truth. Taking a journey from the north to the south pictures the spiritual journey we take as we gain knowledge, or truth, from the Word.



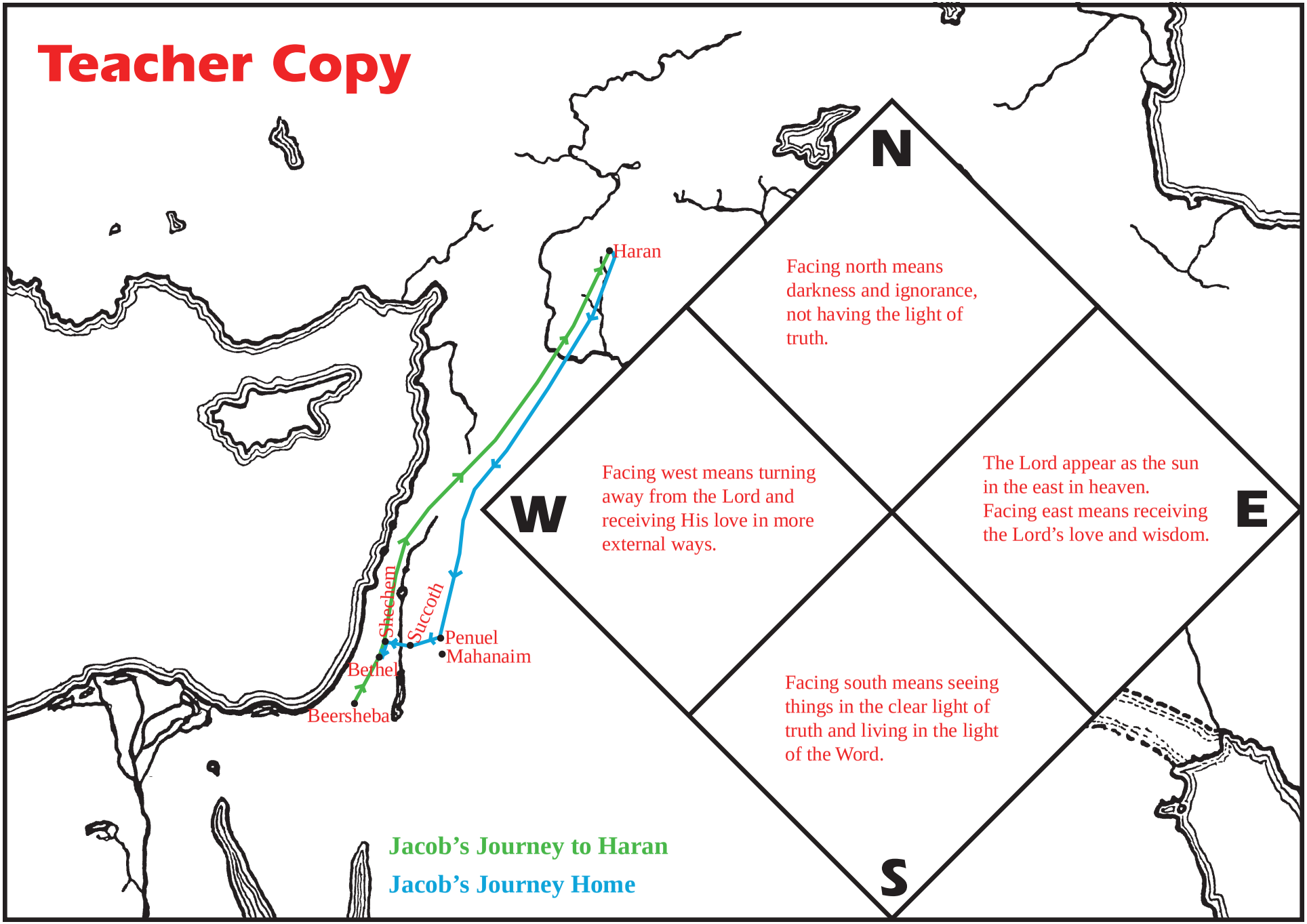
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Canaan's Compass & Jacob's Journeys



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