

## JACOB'S LADDER PART 2

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Genesis 28:10-22

We return this morning to our study of Jacob's conversion experience here in Genesis 28. We have entitled our message, 'Jacob's Ladder. As we said last week, we want to consider the importance application in regards to the gospel. Yes, the gospel is set forth here; we have a glorious type of the gospel represented here in Genesis 28. There are 6 things we present to you last week:

- I. **Jacob's Deception.**
- II. **Jacob's Departure.**
- III. **Jacob's Dream.**
- IV. **Jacob's Discovery.**
- V. **Jacob's Delight.**
- VI. **Jacob's Dedication.**

The first thing we saw last week was, **Jacob's Deception.** Though this is not in our text we saw last week from Genesis 27 how Jacob deceived his father in taking his brother Esau's blessing. We looked at Genesis 27:36 last week regarding Esau's response to what Jacob had done, "*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?*" Thus, we saw Jacob's Deception.

Secondly, we saw **Jacob's Departure**, where Esau did not take it too kindly regarding what Jacob had done, this was the last straw and perhaps said, Jacob has swindled me for the last time and he swore deadly revenge. Notice what he plans to do to Jacob, Gen.27:41-43, "*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. 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. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran.*" Now, it was when he was on the run that Jacob had his first significant encounter with God. Thus, we've seen Jacob's deception and Jacob's departure.

Thirdly, we began **Jacob's Dream** and but did not finish this point. Now, because of everything that has transpired in Genesis 27 we see Jacob travelling to Padanaram and I'm sure his thoughts consumed him as he felt that his whole life has collapsed around him. His home has completely fallen apart; he had to flee because his own brother sought to kill him and travels to Haran to see an uncle he has never met. He is wondering what in the world has happen to my life. There's a sense that Jacob felt that

he had hit rock bottom, traveling by himself in the desert when night overtakes him. This is how God finds most sinners when He saves them; they have come to the end of themselves. This is where I believe we find Jacob. He is on a long journey, weary from his travel and spends the night out in the open, lonely and confused and perhaps wondering, is this what life is all about. The question that needs to be ask, is, what brought him to this point? The answer is simple and true, HIS SINS! It was his sins that brought him to this point and at the end of it all, this is what sin rewarded him for its services, stones for a bed, a stone for a pillow and left all alone! Sin deceives and misleads, it deceives you by making sin fun and pleasurable, but at the end, sin always begets misery. Well, whatever Jacob's was thinking, he had come to the end of himself. Night overtook him and he begins to find a place to go to sleep.

In our third point we see God coming to Jacob by means of a dream, which was one of the means of God's revelation in the pass. As we have established in our first message God now speaks to us solely through His word, the Bible. Why? Because the canon is complete from Genesis to Revelation which is the complete written revealed will of God to us. Remember we read last week in 2 Peter 1:16-21 that we have "...**a more sure word of prophecy...**" *"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **were eyewitnesses of his majesty**. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also **a more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well **that ye take heed**, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* Verse 19 in the NIV reads, "And **we have the word of the prophets made more certain**, and you will do well to pay attention to it..." The ESV reads, "And **we have something more sure, the prophetic word**, to which you will do well to pay attention..." I'm told that the literal Greek order is: "And we have more firm the prophetic word." The purpose of the Greek word order is to show that Peter was ranking SCRIPTURE over experience. The phrase, "...more sure..." is the Greek word, "**bebaios**" which means stable, fixed, certain, trustworthy, that which may be proven to be true and can be relied on so that it will not cause disillusion or failure because it is reliable. Peter is making it very clear that we have a surer foundation established in Word of God than any signs or wonders he had seen. Henry Morris says this, "As sure as Peter was of what he had seen and heard, this was only his own experience and could only be given as a personal testimony to others. Thus, he stressed that God's written Word, available to all in the holy Scriptures, was more sure than any personal experience he or others might have. It is not in Peter or Paul as men, no matter how sincere or holy they may be, that we must trust, but in Christ as revealed (not in our experience, either) in God's written Word." Heb.1:1 & 2 clearly states, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." God in the Old Testament spoke by the medium of dreams and in this story in Genesis 28 He spoke to Jacob in a dream. Don't go home tonight seeking to get a dream from God, it would be better if you read the Bible;

it is a more sure revelation from God than from a dream. But here in Genesis 28 Jacob dreamed and God spoke to him.

This dream is define by four major beholds:

- Genesis 28:12, “And he dreamed, and **behold a ladder** set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven...”
- Genesis 28:12, “...and **behold the angels** of God ascending and descending on it.”
- Genesis 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.”
- Genesis 28:15, “And, **behold, I am with thee**, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, 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 of.”

Now, the most important part of this revelation is the ladder and this is where we will spend our time. This is the only time the word ladder was used in Genesis and for that matter throughout the whole Bible, this is known again as a hapax-legomenon, (a word or phrase that appears only once in a manuscript). There are 8 things we subtitled under our third point, The Dream in regards to the ladder:

1. **The Savior of the Ladder.**
2. **The Setting Up of the Ladder.**
3. **The Sacredness of the Ladder.**
4. **The Singleness of the Ladder.**
5. **The Seraphim’s of the Ladder.**
6. **The Sovereign of the Ladder.**
7. **The Seed of the Ladder.**
8. **The Security of the Ladder.**

### 1. **The Savior of the Ladder.**

The first thing we saw last week in the revelation from God is, “**Behold a ladder...**” This is the most important part of the dream, the ladder, because the ladder represents the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a type of our Savior, the ladder is Jesus Christ. It is God who is pleased to reveal Himself to us and it is God who shows us the ladder to heaven. In Matt.11:27, Jesus says, “All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.” God the Father from heaven was revealing to Jacob that there was only one way to Him and it was through the ladder, that is, Jesus Christ. We must also see that the door to heaven is open, it was opened for Jacob and it is opened for you this morning, you must by faith come to Christ. Oh my dear ones, there is a door open in heaven and there is a ladder provided to ascend to heaven, but one day the door will be closed and the ladder removed and there shall be no access to

heaven. Take heed to the words of Isa.55:6 & 7, “*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*” In John 10:9, Jesus Christ Himself says, “*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...*” Thus, we see first, the Savior of the Ladder.

## 2. The Setting Up of the Ladder.

Secondly, we saw last week, The Setting up of the Ladder, “*...behold a ladder **set up** on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven...*” We see secondly that this ladder was set up on earth and it reached all the way to heaven. The setting up of this ladder on earth speaks of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ came from heaven to earth for the purpose of saving man. God had to manifest Himself in flesh in order to save man. Jesus left the glories of glories to come to earth to take upon Him the robe of flesh. 1 Tim.3:16, “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*” By incarnation we basically mean that Christ as the second person of the Godhead bodily literally embodied Himself in the flesh. He was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless lived and gave Himself upon the cross to save His people. Without the incarnation we have no salvation. Thus, the ladder being set up on the earth is a type of Jesus Christ coming down to earth as the redeemer of sinners.

## 3. The Sacredness of the Ladder.

The third thing we saw last week, is The Sacredness of the Ladder, “*And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the **top of it reached to heaven...***” This ladder reached all the way to heaven, that is, the top of this ladder reached heaven. This third point can be seen twofold, it can speak of reconciliation, that is, Christ is the only way any of us can reach heaven and He did it by His powerful worked on the cross, wherein, by His atonement, He brings sinners from this earth to the glories of heaven in the grace of salvation, that is, His coming down to earth to die on the cross in the only means whereby a sinner can reach heaven. But it could also mean the resurrection of Christ. He came and died and has ascended to heaven where He sits enthroned in heaven. Look to Christ as your ladder to heaven. Come in repentance towards God and faith towards to the Jesus.

## 4. The Singleness of the Ladder.

Fourthly, we see the Singleness of the Ladder, “*...behold **a ladder** set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven...*” It says, behold ‘**A**’ ladder, that is, there was only one ladder and the top this particular ladder reached heaven. This particular ladder bridges heaven and earth and because Christ is this ladder, it speaks of His mediation, that is, Jesus Christ is mediator between God and man. Jesus Christ is the only one that bridges the gulf between God and man. 1 Tim.2:5, “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” There is much doctrine in this text to which

the author knew would create a storm of controversy among man. But, nonetheless it establishes the glorious doctrinal truth regarding that there is only one mediator, thus only one way to God and that is found in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. It is put in such simple language that anyone can understand its truth. A mediator is the go between person to reconcile two opposing parties. In this application we see one party that is HOLY, which is God and the other party that is sinful which man is. They are diametrically opposed because sin has separated us from God. Therefore, we have a great holy and high God on one side and on the other side, sinful, depraved, rebellious obstinate man. Thus, the need for a mediator, a reconciler yea a Savior, this why Paul writes in 2 Cor.5:19, “*To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*” This is our hope that God has established a ladder on earth and the top of it reaches heaven, Christ is this precious and most needed ladder. Christ Jesus is the mediator between heaven and earth!

## 5. The Seraphim’s of the Ladder.

Fifthly, we see the Seraphim’s of the Ladder in last part of verse 12 of our text, “*...and **behold the angels** of God ascending and descending on it.*” The second behold in our text turns our attention to the angels of God as they were ascending and descending on the ladder. The angels are the ministering hosts of heaven. It was the angel Gabriel that announced to Mary she would give birth to Christ in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. It was angels also announced to the shepherds in the fields that Christ was born in Bethlehem. It was also angels that came and ministered to Christ in the temptation of Christ by the Devil and it was also angels that strengthen our Lord Jesus Christ at Gethsemane when Christ was praying in agony. Then we have the two angels who at the empty tomb announce the resurrection of Christ. We also have the angels in Acts 1:9-11, telling the disciples of the ascending Christ. We are also told in Heb.1:13 & 14 about the angels being ministering spirits, “*But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*” No question that there are angels round about us constantly, especially those who are heirs of salvation. Though we put not stock nor trust in angels, but they are ministering spirits of God. Angels are in subjection to Christ, 1 Peter 3:22, “*(Jesus Christ) Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*” We are told in Hebrews 13:2, “*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares*”. Then of course we are also told by Christ in Luke 15:10, “*Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*” Much can be said about angels, but this is not my message, but lastly when we die I believe angels escort us to heaven upon Elijah’s chariot, in Luke 16:22, “*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom...*” Yes, the angels ascend and descend up and down the ladder as ministering spirits of God. Part of it could also be that they are blown asunder that man fight’s against, denies and rejects the glorious gospel of Christ and if they would be allowed by God, I believe they would come and

preach the gospel to sinners! 1 Peter 1:12, *“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”* Whether they will be allowed you decide according to Revelation 14:6, *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”* Regardless what our finite minds think about angels they do ascend and descend upon the glorious ladder that reaches to the top of heaven.

## 6. The Sovereign of the Ladder.

Sixthly, we shall consider The Sovereign of the Ladder, we see this in verse 13 of our text, *“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.”* The top of this needful ladder reached heaven and our third behold tells us that the one who stood above it was Jehovah/Yahweh, that is, the LORD God of Abraham and Isaac. This must have really touched the heart of Jacob, for He knew without a shadow of doubt that this was none other than the Living and True God of his father and grandfather, to whom the promises of God belonged. God is renewing, ratifying and confirming the covenant made to his fathers. The LORD stood over him and above to declare this glorious truth that was promise and perpetuated to his fathers and now to him. How that must have gripped his heart, as he felt so alone, such a failure, so insecure and so out of place, yet God in heaven spoke to him by means of a covenant which he had heard Abraham and Isaac talk about. The Sovereign God of heaven and earth spoke to Jacob and declared and ratified the promise given to Abraham and Isaac. Just when he thought his life was in shambles and no one cared or was concerned about him, God came to where he was and said I AM THE LORD GOD and the promise I made with your fathers I make and ratify anew with you, *“...the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.”* This is good news to anyone this morning who feels lonely or that no one cares for them, look to God this morning. Remember Jacob had the blessing and the birthright which included this covenant and therefore God renews it with Jacob. What grace and mercy when God covenants with a sinner in the grace of salvation. To every sinner God saves He renews that glorious covenant, not of some land, but renews that everlasting covenant that is made by the precious blood of Christ. Heb. 13:20 & 21, *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* It is that blood of the everlasting covenant that we find our hope and security in Christ, yes, He is that ladder set upon earth, but reaching the glories of heaven, this is why King David could say knowingly and appreciatively, 2 Samuel 23:5, *“...God...hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation...”* Our salvation is found upon this everlasting covenant signed and secure in the blood of Jesus Christ, in the blood of the everlasting covenant. Just a quick reminder, God made this promise to Noah when the rainbow came out after the flood, Genesis 9:16, *“And the bow shall be in*

*the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.” This was the covenant made with Abraham, Genesis 17:7, “And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.” Therefore, The Sovereign God of heaven and earth spoke to Jacob from above the ladder and declared, confirmed, ratified and renewed the promise given to Abraham and Isaac; notice carefully the words of Psalm 105:8-10, “He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. 9 Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; 10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant.” Again, this is what God does when He saves a sinner He remembers, He declares, He confirms, He ratifies and He renews His everlasting covenant with them. I love what it says in Ezekiel 16:8, “Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.”*

If you sit here this morning outside Christ, let me remind you, there is a ladder whose top reaches heaven, and that is the only way to enter heaven, Jesus Christ is that ladder, oh to God that you flee to Christ for salvation this morning, that God would be pleased and happy to enter into a covenant with you, yea sealed and sign in the blood of Christ as the blood of the everlasting covenant. There is no other ladder to heaven, there is no other way to God, it is only in the person of Christ, come to Him this morning, in repentance towards God and faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ. Come this morning to the Sovereign of the Ladder!