

“A Stairway” - Genesis 28:10-22

Ask - “Have you ever lived in a house that had a staircase? Describe it.”

Background - After stealing his brother’s blessing, Jacob departed from his homeland and made his way toward Haran. Issac instructed him to stay with Laban, who was Jacob’s uncle, and to choose a wife from among his own kinsmen. Along the way, something amazing happened.

“Jacob’s Dream” - Genesis 28:10-12

(v10-11) Where did Jacob depart from, where was he going, and why? Read verses 1-9 for context. When the sun set, what did Jacob do?

(v12) What happened to Jacob while he was sleeping? Describe what he saw. What does the stairway (or ladder) signify? (*answer: the connection between God and man*) Who does the stairway/ladder signify? (*answer: Jesus*)

ON HIS JOURNEY TO HARAN, JACOB HAD A DREAM ABOUT A STAIRWAY (OR LADDER) THAT CONNECTED EARTH AND HEAVEN.

“The Covenant Extended” - Genesis 28:13-17

(v13) Who stood at the top of the stairway? How did God identify Himself? What did God promise to Jacob?

(v14) What did the Lord say to Jacob about his descendents? How would they impact the rest of the earth?

(v15) What did the LORD promise to Jacob personally? (Remember, Jacob was on his way out of the Promised Land to Haran.)

(v16-17) What was Jacob’s response to God? How did this encounter begin to change and reshape Jacob’s character and purpose?

GOD EXTENDED THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT THROUGH JACOB AND REAFFIRMED THE PROMISES HE HAD MADE TO ABRAHAM AND ISAAC.

“Jacob’s Vow” - Genesis 28:18-22

(v18-19) What did Jacob do when he arose early the next morning? What did Jacob rename that place? What does the name Bethel mean? Does this location occur elsewhere in the Bible? (*research in advance*)

(v20-21) What conditional promise did Jacob make to the Lord?

(v22) What was the significance of the stone Jacob set up? What else did Jacob promise to do (as his father and grandfather had done)?

JACOB SET UP A MEMORIAL TO GOD, RENAMED THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS BETHEL, AND MADE VOWS TO THE LORD.

Application - Jacob was an imperfect person. He deceived his father and brother in order to steal Esau's blessing. This would not be the only act of deception that he'd commit during his lifetime. Nevertheless, God chose Jacob to be the son through whom the Abrahamic Covenant was extended. He spoke to Jacob through a miraculous dream, and Jacob promised to serve Him. God uses broken, messed-up people like Jacob all the time. The truth is, all of us are flawed and defiled by sin. But there is a divine Mediator who reconciles us and connects us to God. Take a moment to praise the LORD for sending Jesus to be our stairway to Heaven.