**Jacob Dreams of a Ladder** **Genesis 28:10-15 PP 183-184 “The cure for Death”**

Jacob was Abraham’s grandson: born, the son of Isaac, when Abraham was 160 years old. We know that Abraham died at 175. This means Jacob was a teenager – 15 years old – when His grandfather died. What a privilege to have been born into such a successful family who were, by the way, quite well off. Jacob was privileged to be a descendant of Abraham’s family tree. It was a goodly line tracing back to Shem, the son of Noah. But more than just his blood line, it was Jacob’s privilege to be a representative of the only true God; the recipients of the charge, commandments, statutes and laws of God. What a privilege – true. But what a responsibility: to represent God in this world. As we look at Jacob’s life we will discover that being privileged doesn’t make life any easier. We still need to make choices, we will still face many temptations and we will still have many lessons to learn. But brothers and sisters, that is also part of the privilege of being a representative of God in this world. May we take courage from Jacob’s story - both the highs and the lows as we see the patience and wisdom of the living God working a miracle in the life of Jacob.

1Co 6:19  What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20  For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ecc 3:3  A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

Deut 32:39  See now that I, *even* I, *am* he, and *there is* no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither *is there any* that can deliver out of my hand.

The story behind Jacob’s dream - Birth > promise > birthright exchanged > blessing stolen > departure > dream …

Birth – Gen 25:19-26; promise – Gen 25:23; birthright exchanged - Gen 25:27-34 (A.P.E.) If we can’t control out appetite, passions and emotions we are no better than apes.; blessing stolen (deception) - Gen 27:1-29; sent away - Gen 28:1-5

*Jacob was even now beginning a journey that would involve deep pain and considerable conflict. Through these experiences he was to learn vital lessons about his own character which needed repair. The only way God could accomplish this goal, and save Jacob, was to bring him through many trials which would expose the flaws in his character, awaken the need for conversion, and lead to his repentance and salvation. This is the experience each one of us must pass through if we are to be saved.*

**Gen 28:10-15**

12. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.**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;  14  And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad … : and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 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.

Q. What does this tell us about God? He is faithful and keeps His promises.

Two days after His baptism … speaking to Nathaniel. “Son of God … King of Israel.”

John 1:51 “Ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God **ascending** and **descending** upon the Son of man.” DA 142/3

“In the vision the plan of redemption was presented to Jacob, not fully, but in such parts as were essential to him at that time. The **mystic ladder** revealed to him in his dream was the same to which Christ referred in His conversation with Nathanael. Said He, “Ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” Up to the time of man's rebellion against the government of God, there had been free communion between God and man. But the sin of Adam and Eve separated earth from heaven, so that man could not have communion with his **Maker**. Yet the world was not left in solitary hopelessness. The ladder represents Jesus, the appointed medium of communication. Had He not with His own merits bridged the gulf that sin had made, the ministering angels could have held no communion with fallen man. Christ connects man in his weakness and helplessness with the **source** of infinite power.” PP 184.2

Q. When did Christ bridge that gulf that sin had made between heaven and earth? Calvary or ere there was a sinner there was a Saviour. Rev 13:8

John 14:6  Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10:9  I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

**John 10:1-4**  Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2  But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3  To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4  And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

Q. Why does the porter put the sheep out? What else is significant about his verse? He goes before them and leads with His word.

5  And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

6  This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7  Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8  All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9  I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10  The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. 11  I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

How many ways are there to God? Why does Jesus use the terms thief and robber? 2 reasons: 1. They only have their own interests at heart. 2. When they steal something it goes to their own house and not to the Father’s house. Jesus one said, My house is a house of prayer for all people … Mt 21:13; He later said, “Your house is left unto desolate.” Mt 23:38. Who is the porter?

Gen 28:16  And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not.

17  And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! this *is* none other but the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven. 18  And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

Mat 21:44  And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Hos 6:1  Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Hos 6:2  After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Ecc 3:3  A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

Gal 2:20  I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Rev 3:19  As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Jacob’s ladder is always there for you. It/He/Christ is your assurance that:

* God keeps His promises – 2Cor 1:20
* Christ is always there for you – Mat 28:20
* Angels are constantly there to support you – Heb 1:14
* God will complete the good work He has begun in you – Phil 1:6

Jacob still had much to learn as he only now left the comfort of his family and home. This can be the theme for another time. May God bless your journey and inspire your choices as you wait for Jesus to return. Amen