

“God Reveals”

Genesis 28:10-17; John 1:43-51 - Sunday, October 13, 2019



Probing the Passage

The Patriarchs: Jacob

What the Old Testament is doing?

- Each pericope (or story) is doing three things.
- Affecting the person’s actual life.
- Revealing God’s Character and Person
- Pointing to God’s Self-Revelation and Incarnation in Jesus Christ

Atmosphere:

- It feels like Jacob is straying farther from the Lord.
- He leaves the family of Abraham.
- He leaves where God settled Isaac and Abraham.
- He leaves his inheritance.

The Ladder:

- Where Heaven and Earth Meet
- The Means by which messages are conveyed (ἀγγελία = Message)
- Contrasted with the Tower of Babel.

Babel Vs. Bethel:

- At Babel, the people were scattered in order to disrupt them.
- At Bethel, Jacob’s descendants will be spread to bring blessings.

What Did We Learn?

- The means to grace, to God, is not through planning or conniving.
- Meaningful because Jacob is a schemer.
- It is through God’s grace.
- Jacob is met before he searches for God.

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The Covenant Renewed:

- Just as Jacob is looking at the wreckage of his life, God includes him.
- “(T)he God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac” and later, the God of you.

Purpose of Election:

- God expands the promise, the descendants are to spread abroad.
- All the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Not Just For You:

- Jacob isn’t chosen for himself.
- Jacob is chosen that through his Witness the Earth might be blessed.

As Jacob Leaves:

- God says I am with you and will keep you.
- As he is leaving “the Good Place”, God says I will be with you everywhere.

Localized:

- Jacob localizes this incredible experience.
- Jacob reflects:
- God is in this place
- I would have acted differently had I known.
- How awe-inspiring is this place, for God is here.

Did You See It?

- Jesus takes what happens in Jacob’s life and draws it to himself.
- The ladder is the connection between Heaven and Earth and the Son of the Man takes its place.

Who Is this Man?

- God’s self-revelation to the greatest degree.

All Responses Fall Short:

- This vow to God is the strongest possible answer to this experience.
- It feels so weak.

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