Back to the Beginning

Finding the Forever Character of God

A Walk through Genesis

A Day of Surprises

Genesis 28



¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.

¹² And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.

¹⁴ Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God,

²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

Four Surprises

A Surprising Place

V.11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set.

What Was Surprising about this Place?

- It Was an In-Between Place.
- It Was a Place of Fear & Loneliness.
- It Was an Undesirable Place.
- It Represented Sin, Hatred, & Brokenness.

Don't Go Around Living Like You're out of God's Reach.

The Presence of God is Unlimited.

- The Power of God is Unstoppable.
- And the Promises of God are Unmerited.

A Surprising Act

V.18 So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

Charles Spurgeon

"I have learned to kiss the wave that slams me into the Rock of Ages."

Don't Let Your Pain Go Unredeemed.

Do You Need to Anoint the Place of Pain?

A Surprising Reversal

V.20-21 ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, It is Possible to Walk away from the Presence of God Unchanged because of the Stubbornness of our Sin.

Don't Hand over that Victory!

A Surprising Image

49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." - John 1

Without Jesus, None of This is Possible.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

Through Jesus, We Have God's Forever "Yes."

Does He Have Yours?