

Session 1 – Jacob’s Ladder: We Confess that Jesus is the Only Way to God

Written for our Instruction: OT Lessons on the Christian Life

NOTES:

I. Jacob’s Dream

A. *The Setting*

1. Jacob is on a journey from Beersheba to Haran.
2. He comes to a _____ (emphasized 3x).
3. He takes a stone and places it at his head-place.

B. *The Dream*

1. **A Structure:** Behold a ladder set on the earth with its top [head] reaching to heaven

a) The Hebrew word for “ladder” is _____ and this is the only occurrence of the word in all of Scripture. Scholars disagree as to what he saw.

b) What is important is that the structure _____ earth with heaven. Here is a place where there is true access to God.

2. **Action:** Behold the angels of God were ascending and descending on it or down to him.

a) Here again there is a certain ambiguity in the text.

(1) Ascending/descending on it= The _____

(2) Ascending/descending down to him= _____

b) The angels going up and down are somewhat mysterious. What do they represent?

(1) The ladder and angels add to the _____ and wonder of God’s revelation.

(2) Angels, in Genesis, deliver messages from God (Hagar), protect God’s people from harm (Lot), and lead and _____ God’s people in the accomplishing of God’s will (Abraham’s servant seeking a wife for Isaac).

(3) **Conclusion:** Perhaps we can safely infer that the angelic activity serves both to add to the glory and authenticity of the vision as well as to assure Jacob of God’s _____ and assistance.

3. **A Message:** Behold the Lord stood above it/him and said...

a) In terms of sheer length, God’s message to Jacob is clearly the _____ point of the dream.

b) He promises three things to Jacob and his offspring more _____ and three things to Jacob specifically.

NOTES:

C. **Jacob's Response**

1. _____: Surely the Lord is in this place.
2. **Fear:** Here is a place where there is _____ to God.
3. **Consecration:** We don't exactly know the significance of Jacob setting up the stone and pouring oil on its top but it is likely a religious act denoting consecration to the Lord (Gen. 31:13).
4. _____: Even though Jacob's response seems tainted by his conniving and manipulative character (he tries to bargain with God), yet he did understand that God's revelation of Himself placed a certain demand upon his life.

D. **Point of the Story**

1. Jacob is the recipient of the Abrahamic covenant and the one through whom God will fulfill his _____.
2. As such, Jacob enjoys God's special blessing and _____ symbolized by the busy traffic of God's ministering angels between heaven and Jacob on earth.
3. Both the text and Jacob himself link the divine vision, presence, and communication with the geographic location _____.
4. God's redemptive promises are not earned but graciously given by a covenant keeping God. It is God who _____ and pursues a saving relationship with undeserving people.

II. **Jacob's Dream and Jesus**

A. **Recipient(s) of the Dream:**

1. **Correspondence:**
 - a) Who sees the dream in Genesis? _____. Who else is invited to observe the dream? The reader.
 - b) Who sees the antitype of the dream in John = The _____. Who else is invited to observe the antitype? All true disciples.
2. **Significance:**
 - a) God's revelation concerning his Son is not given on the basis of human _____ or demerit.
 - b) We are encouraged to _____ a revelation from God.
3. **Escalation:** Jacob saw the vision in a dream; the disciples will see it in _____ life displayed in the person of Jesus.

B. *The Dream Itself:*

1. Correspondence:

- a) Genesis = Angels ascend /descend on the ladder **or** down to Jacob
- b) John = Angels ascend/descend on Jesus
- c) Does Jesus correspond to the _____ or Jacob?

2. Significance:

- a) **Jesus=Ladder:** Jesus is the _____ by which salvation blessings can flow from heaven to mankind.
- b) **Jesus=Jacob:** Jesus is the new and greater _____. He is God's chosen vessel through whom he will accomplish his covenant promises.

3. **Escalation:** The covenant with Abraham which was renewed with Jacob will be _____ in Jesus.

C. *Response to the Dream:*

1. Correspondence:

- a) Genesis: Jacob concluded, "How awesome is this _____! This is the house of God, the gate of heaven.
- b) John: The disciples will discover, "How awesome is _____, the Son of God. He is none other than the house of God, and He is the gate of heaven."

2. **Significance:** The distance that separates me from the presence of God is not a geographical distance but rather a _____ distance, the distance that lies between me and the person of Jesus Christ.

III. Application

1. Are we like Jacob, manipulating the circumstances of our lives in order to achieve some desired end? If so, like Jacob, we need a revelation from God,
 - a) We need a revelation to our hearts that God is pursuing us, not to harm us, but to bless us. And he is pursuing us in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - b) We need a revelation to our hearts that all of God's covenant promises are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.
 - c) We need a revelation to our hearts that Jesus is the gate, a gate that stands open into heaven, the ultimate Eden. Jesus said, "I am the door, if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9).