

the Purpose *and* Promises of God

The Assurance of God's Presence

Summary

In spite of all Jacob's failures, the Lord appears to Jacob in a dream and promises to be with him. Jacob responds by worshiping God and vowing to serve him. Later, Jesus would explain that Jacob's dream was really about him: Jesus is the ladder, the link between heaven and earth. Jesus is the one who makes it possible for God to be with sinful people like Jacob—and like us.

1. God's Grace to Jacob (Genesis 28:10-15)

Jacob camps in an anonymous place (vv. 10-11)

Jacob dreams of a ladder (vv. 12-13)

Jacob receives God's promises (vv. 14-15)

2. Jacob's Response to God (Genesis 28:16-22)

Jacob awakens in a sacred place (vv. 16-17)

Jacob erects a monument (vv. 18-19)

Jacob vows to serve God (vv. 20-22)

3. Jesus' Fulfillment for Us (John 1:45-51)

Jesus is the sacred place

Jesus is the ladder

Jesus is the assurance of God's presence

Personal Application

1. What is the context for Jacob's dream? How did he end up here?
2. Why do you think Jacob was afraid when he awoke from his dream? Consider Psalm 130:3-4.
3. What do you think of Jacob's response to God: was it sincere worship or an attempt to control God for his own advantage? Or a mixture of both? Explain your answer.
4. In what areas of your life do you most struggle to believe that God truly cares about you and is with you?
5. Three assurances of God's presence are confidence when we feel ashamed (Hebrews 10:19-23), comfort when we feel alone (Isaiah 41:10), and courage when we feel afraid (Joshua 1:9). Which of these assurances do you most need to remember this week?
6. Read John 14:6 and 1 Timothy 2:5. Praise Jesus for being the ladder that connects us to God and God to us.