

THE COMPLICATED LIFE OF

Jacob

A LIFE LIKE YOURS AND MINE

Part 2

Stairway to Heaven

Genesis 28:10 - 22

Jacob's Condition before the Dream

Genesis 28:10 - 11

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran.

Genesis 27:41 - 43

⁴¹ Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

⁴² When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, “Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you. ⁴³ Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran.

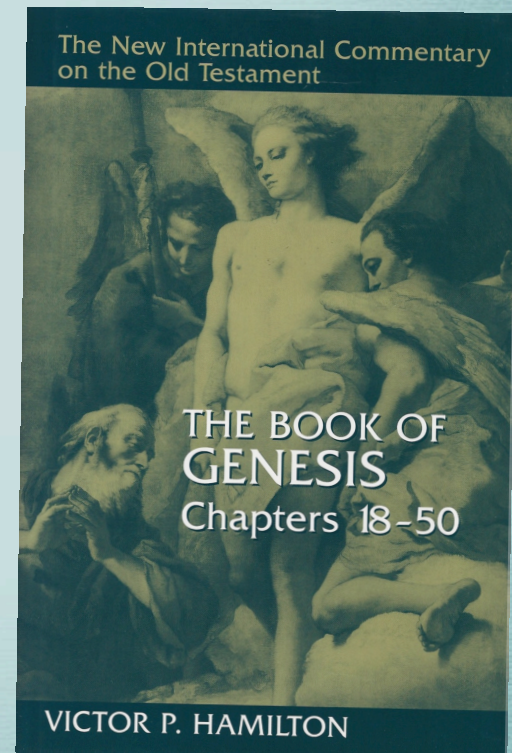
Jacob's Condition before the Dream

Genesis 28:10 - 11

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran.

¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

It emphasizes the randomness with which Jacob chose this place to pass the night.





The Dream

Genesis 28:12 - 15

¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

The Dream

Genesis 28:12 - 15

¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south.

The Dream

Genesis 28:12 - 15

All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

stairway



angels



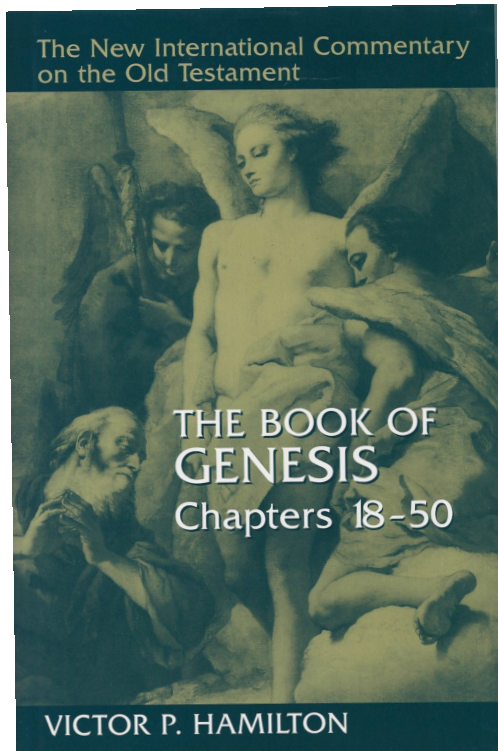
angels

herald / messenger

Angels are royal heralds and attendants that are sent out into the world, to carry and execute the declarations and decrees of the King.

there over him
stood the LORD

IT or HIM?



This verse does not claim that God was standing on the top of the stairway but that God was standing at Jacob's side . . . Yahweh and Jacob are near each other . . .

Jacob was *friendless*

“I will be with you” . . . “I will not
leave you.” (v. 15)

Jacob was *defenseless*

“I will watch over you wherever
you go.” (v. 15)

Jacob was *broke*

I will give you and your descendants the
land on which you are lying.” (v. 14)



Acts 7:55 - 56

He looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Isaiah 55:9

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”



Jacob's Response to the Dream

Genesis 28:16 - 22

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷

He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

Jacob's Response to the Dream

Genesis 28:16 - 22

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

Jacob's Response to the Dream

Genesis 28:16 - 22

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s house, then the LORD will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”



Genesis 11:4

“Come, let us build ourselves
a city, with a *tower* that
reaches to the heavens.”

Tower of Babel


Babel > Babylon > bab-ili

=

“*the gate of heaven*” or “*the gate of the god*”

Genesis 11:4

“Come, let us build ourselves
a city, with a *tower* that
reaches to the heavens.”



*“that which has been
raised high”*



John 1:43 - 51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from

Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶

Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

John 1:43 - 51

⁴⁶ Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸

Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

John 1:43 - 51

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.*”



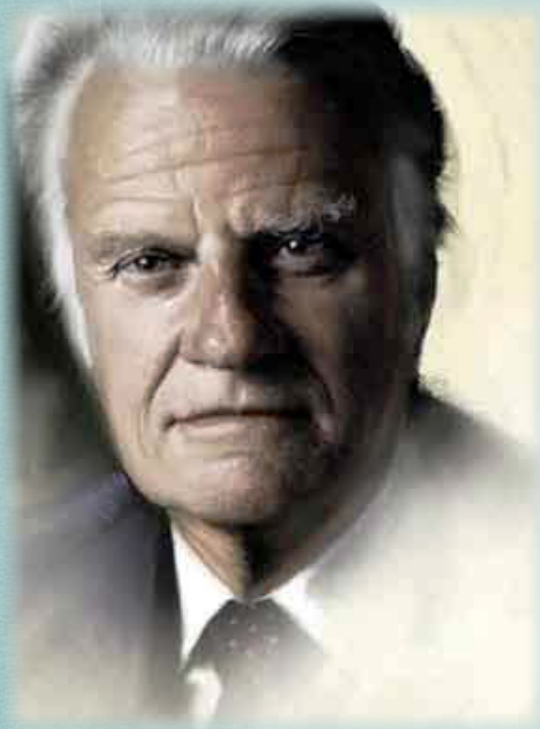
Take-Aways

Any place is the gate of heaven

Any condition can function as the
gate of heaven

Don't be like Jacob!

Take-Aways



“A checkbook is a theological statement.”



