

## TAKE-AWAYS

1. This text tells us \_\_\_\_\_ is the gate of heaven.

2. This text tells us \_\_\_\_\_ can function as the gate of heaven.

*Mark 2:16 – 17 – <sup>16</sup> But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?”*

*<sup>17</sup> When Jesus heard this, he told them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.” (NLT)*

*1 Peter 5:5 – 7 – <sup>5</sup> “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (NIV)*

3. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_

*“ . . . should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15 NIV)*

THE COMPLICATED LIFE OF

Jacob

A LIFE LIKE YOURS AND MINE

SCC Message by John Aldax, August 23, 2015

Part 2

## Stairway to Heaven

Genesis 28:10 – 22

### JACOB’S CONDITION BEFORE THE DREAM – VS. 10 – 11

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

*Genesis 27:41 – 43 – <sup>41</sup> 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.”*

*<sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran.*

### THE DREAM – VS. 12 – 15

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> 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.”

IN THE DREAM HE SEES SEVERAL THINGS:

He sees \_\_\_\_\_.

He sees \_\_\_\_\_ . . . ascending and descending.

He sees, “There over him \_\_\_\_\_.”

THE LORD SAYS SOME THINGS THAT HE DESPERATELY NEEDED TO HEAR.

Jacob was \_\_\_\_\_. “I will be with you” . . . “I will not leave you.” (v. 15)

He’s \_\_\_\_\_. “I will watch over you wherever you go.” (v. 15)

He’s \_\_\_\_\_. “I will bring you back to this land.” (v. 15)  
“I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.” (v. 14)

See also 2 Kings 6 & Acts 7:55 & 56

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” – Isaiah 55:9

## JACOB’S RESPONSE TO THE DREAM – VS. 16 – 22

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

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

<sup>20</sup> 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 <sup>21</sup> so that I return safely to my father’s house, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup> 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 . . .”*

The word **ziggurat** means “*that which has been raised high.*” (The Torah, A Modern Commentary)

*John 1:43–51, <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> 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.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”*

*Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup> 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.” <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”*

*<sup>50</sup> 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.” <sup>51</sup> 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.” (NIV)*