



Genesis 28

1. Good deeds done in the present cannot always make up/remove the consequences of our bad deeds in the past (1-9).
2. The place where we hear God's words and experience His presence indicates also: 1) His house (17, 19), 2) the gate of/stairway to heaven (10-12, 17), 3) covenant (18, 22 – "pillar" or w/Gen 31:45), 4) covenant promises and obligations (13-15, 20-21, 22).
3. Jesus identifies the church as the place for hearing God's words and experiencing His presence (today) since it is His house, the gate/stairway to heaven and covenant community where God's covenant promises and obligations are established (Compare Gen 22:10-22 w/1Ti 3:15; Mat 16:18-19, 18:17-20, 28:18-20; Joh 1:51 w/Eph 1:23).

Genesis 29

1. Great strength and endurance are the results of great love (1-30).
2. Drunkenness and darkness are the formula for marrying the wrong person (21-30).
3. God has given all of us the ability to live (fully) fulfilled lives though He doesn't give us all the same abilities (31-35).

Genesis 30

1. God wants team-players not glory hounds (1-24).
2. When we are faithful at our jobs, some of the ways God can bless us is by: 1) making our employers prosper (25-30 = Company success), 2) making us valuable (even indispensable) to our employers (28 = Job security), 3) giving us the expertise/wisdom/success to start our own companies (31-43 = Career independence), 4) guarding us from the success-impeding actions of unrighteous employers (35 = Prosperity protection).

Matthew 28

1. Jesus rose from the dead on the "first day of the week". Hence the reason Christians worship on Sunday (1).
2. The "negative aspects" of Jesus' resurrection: 1) women as the first witnesses = the testimony of 1st century women was held in low esteem, 2) guards being paid off to say Jesus' body had been stolen, 3) the mention of certain disciples doubting), actually bolsters its validity as an honest account given that when people are lying they do their best to steer away from such things (2-17).
3. Jesus' words of possessing "all authority in heaven and on earth" (18) and His command to "go therefore" to "all nations" (19a) is an allusion to 2Chr 36:23 and the building of God's (new) house(s) (i.e. the church) by : 1) making disciples thru baptism (19b), 2) "teaching" obedience to all of God's Law (20a w/Mat 5:17-20), 3) the promise of His glorious presence (in this new house) (20b w/1Ki 8:11; Psa 26:8, 135:21; Isa 6:1, 8:18).

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1. Possessing "eternal life" means possessing "fellowship" (i.e. covenant relationship) w/the "word of life" (Jesus Christ) (1-4).
2. Possessing "fellowship" w/God (or 3 - "with the Father and w/His Son Jesus Christ"): 1) requires that we "walk in the light" (or "practice the truth") (5-7a), 2) means we also have "fellowship w/one another"(i.e. are in covenant relationship w/the church) (7b), 3) is how we receive forgiveness from our sins (7c).
3. Receiving forgiveness for our sins requires that we also commit to: 1) never hiding or denying our sin (when guilty) (8, 10), 2) confessing our sins (9).