

- **It all starts at HOME**

Our homes should be:

1. Pathway to the Lord
2. Presence of the Lord
3. Place of the Lord

Should be a Pathway to the Lord (10-12)

Jacob sees a ladder.....

- What does a ladder do for you?

It gives you access to a place you couldn't get to on your own strength or skill

In Jacob's dream, there is now access to God

Jacob now knew that God was closer than he ever thought before and there was real access and interaction between heaven and earth.

"Ok Chad, great story!! SO what?"

Listen church—Jesus is the ladder!

John 1:51 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."

- Who wants to hear the gospel this morning?

Jesus is not “a way” He is THE WAY

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus gives us access to God

Ephesians 2:12-13 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

You see, what Jacob learned in his dream is the same thing that we know today

God is accessible!!

He is near to us

Psalm 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Acts 17:27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Jacob learned that The God of Bethel was accessible to him

This same God that was accessible to Jacob at Bethel through a ladder is near and accessible to us today through a ladder!!

- How?

Through a dream—NO

Through a ladder—YES

And that ladder is Jesus!

Is your home a Pathway to the Lord?

Filled with The Presence/ Promise of the Lord (13-15)

Genesis 28:15 Behold, **I am with you** and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what **I have promised** you.

God gave Jacob a promise

God promised that His presence would never leave Jacob and that He would be with him until he finished the work that He called him to do

Similar to:

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

.....

- Ok, "Great Chad, but that was for Jacob, what does this have to do with me in 2022"?

It has EVERYTHING to do with you in 2022....

- If you are in Christ, you are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

- If you are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, then the Lord is with you every breathe of your life

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”

- If you are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, the Lord will never leave you

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

So, this is very simple....

Just like Jacob, we should be filled with the presence of the Lord (I AM WITH YOU)

And we should remember the promise of the Lord (I HAVE PROMISED YOU)

Our homes should:

1. The Pathway to the Lord
2. The Presence/ Promise of the Lord

Known as The Place of the Lord (16-17)

v.16 Surely the Lord is in this place and I didn't know it

Some of us need to wake up and see that the Lord is in our homes

Some of us are sleep walking through

- Is this the way YOU see your home? Do you not know that the Lord is in your home if the Lord is in you?
- It's not about the Location!!!

Notice the actual place wasn't significant, it was simply that was the place he laid his head. Look back at verse 10-11

Genesis 28:10-11 ¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he came to a **certain place** and stayed there that night, because the sun had set.

Do you know where the “certain place” was?

I don’t either...

Somewhere between Beersheba and Haran, Jacob found a nice spot and stayed there.

How did he pick it?

It was probably the last place he could see—literally because the sun had set

There was absolutely nothing special about the place

1. God can speak to you anywhere, He is omnipresent and doesn’t dwell in temples made by man

When God speaks to us, we should mark that place as special so that we remember God’s hand in our lives and so that we can tell our children about it

It’s not about the place, it’s about his presence

We don’t look for a place, we look for a person (Jesus)

Walk Away/ Bethel (18-19)

BETHEL- The House of God

I know the word Bethel triggers some of you because you think their music is not doctrinally sound but for the rest of us, Bethel actually means The House of God

The original Bethel was in the middle of the wilderness

A random stop on a dirt road or a cut through path through the woods

- Today, Bethel is your physical address