

The Dream of Bethel

Scripture Reading: Gen. 28:10-22

I. God needs a dwelling place—Isa. 66:1-2.

Isa. 66:1 Thus says Jehovah, / Heaven is My throne, / And the earth the footstool for My feet. / Where then is the house that you will build for Me, / And where is the place of My rest?

Isa. 66:2 For all these things My hand has made, / And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. / But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor / And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

II. The material for God's house is stone—Rev. 21:11, 18-20; 1 Cor. 3:12.

Rev. 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev. 21:18 And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Rev. 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald

Rev. 21:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

Rev. 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was, respectively, of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

1 Cor. 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble

A. Christ is stone—Acts 4:10-11; 1 Pet. 2:4.

Acts 4:10 Let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified and whom God has raised from the dead, in this name this man stands before you in good health.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.

Zech. 4:7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it.

1 Pet. 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious

B. The believers in Christ are becoming stones—2 Cor 4:7a; 3:18; John 1:42; 1 Pet. 2:5a.

2 Cor. 4:7a But we have this treasure in earthen vessels

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

John 1:42 He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).

1 Pet. 2:5a You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house

III. The material needs to be built up—1 Pet. 2:5a; Eph. 2:20b-22.

1 Pet. 2:5a You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house

Eph. 2:20b Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

IV. Where God's house is, there is the gate of heaven—John 1:49-51; 1 Cor. 4:3-4, 24-26.

John 1:49 Nathanael answered Him, Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.

John 1:50 Jesus answered and said to him, Is it because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree that you believe? You shall see greater things than these.

John 1:51 And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

1 Cor. 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men.

1 Cor. 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

1 Cor. 14:24 But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all

1 Cor. 14:25 The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.

1 Cor. 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.