

JACOB'S LADDER  
Text: Gen. 28:10-15

INTRO: Our subject for study is probably the most interesting event in the life of Jacob, son of Isaac, grandson of Abraham. In order to properly comprehend the events of these verses, we must remind ourselves of the fact of human sin & God's desire to provide forgiveness.

I. OUR SINS SEPARATE US FROM GOD.

Isa 65:1-2, Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

NOTE: Sin has had that effect from the first human sin which caused Adam & Eve to be separated from God & expelled from the garden of Eden.

A. This separation from God is common to man, for all have sinned, Rom 3:23.

Rom 5:12, Therefore, just as thru one man sin entered the world, & death thru sin & thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

B. Note the great contrast between God & men.

1. No man lives completely above sin.

Eccl 7:20, For there is not a just man on earth who does good & does not sin.

1 John 1:8-10

2. On the other hand, God cannot even be tempted to sin, James 1:13.

C. This vast distinction between Deity & humanity is illustrated in EX 33:20--

[God said to Moses] You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me & live.

## II. FROM THE TIME OF THE FIRST HUMAN SIN, GOD BEGAN TO UNFOLD HIS PLAN TO RECONCILE MAN TO HIMSELF

Gen 3:15, [To Satan:] I will put enmity between you & the woman & between your seed & her Seed; He shall bruise your head & you shall bruise His heel.

A. Gradually God revealed more about His plan to save men to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses & finally to all the O.T. prophets.

Acts 3:24, All the prophets from Samuel & those who followed, as many as have spoken have also foretold these days.

- B. What to Jacob was pictured as a ladder was pictured to Isaiah as a pathway or highway leading men back to God.

READ ISAIAH 35:5-10.

### III. THESE & NUMEROUS OTHER PROPHECIES FIND THEIR FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST.

- A. He is the way that Isaiah foretold, John 14:1-6.
- B. He is the door by which we enter fellowship with God.

John 10:9, I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, & will go in & out & find pasture.

- C. He is the ladder thru which God & man communicate.

John 1:51, [Jesus said to Nathaniel:] Most assuredly I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open & the angels of God ascending & descending upon the Son of Man.

### IV. JESUS, THE LADDER, SPANS THE GAP BETWEEN DEITY AND HUMANITY.

- A. As the Son of God, He is Deity.
  1. He existed before creation, JN 1:1-3, 14
  2. He shared the glory of Deity before the world began, Johnj 17:5

3. He accepted worship from men & angels, John 20:28-29; Heb. 1:6

B. But He was manifested in the flesh, took upon Him the nature & limitations of man in order to open heaven & serve as man's approach to God.

1. He became flesh, John 1:14.

Phil 2:5-8, Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

2. As man, He met & faced temptation. He possessed a human will, MT 4:1-10; 26:39.

3. He experienced hunger, thirst, fatigue, as any other person would do, MT 4:2; 8:24; JN 19:28

4. He experienced physical pain & suffering.

1 Pet 2:21, Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.

V. JESUS THE LADDER IS GOD'S APPROACH TO MAN IN THIS AGE. Heb. 1:1-2; Gal. 1:11-12.

A. God's true nature is manifested thru Jesus, JN 14:8-9

B. 2 Cor 5:19, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, & has committed to us [apostles & prophets] the word of reconciliation.

C. Everything God has to say to man today, He says thru Jesus Christ, Heb. 1:1-2.

VI. JESUS THE LADDER IS MAN'S ONLY APPROACH TO GOD, JN 14:6.

John 10:7, 9, Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep... I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

A. Our prayers to God must be "in Jesus' name" JN 14:13.

B. In fact, all our service to God is to be done in Jesus' name-- that is, by His authority. Col. 3:17.

C. Everything we have to say to the Father must be said through Jesus Christ.

VII. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST, MEDIATOR & ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER. HE IS GOD'S APOSTLE TO MAN.

Heb. 3:1; 4:15; 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1-2

CONCLUSION: When we consider the fact of our sins, these truths are blessings indeed. But all such blessings are in Christ, Eph. 1:3. The Bible tells us how to come into Christ & enjoy these benefits. They can be found only in Christ. B-R-C-B.

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