

A New Look at the Old Testament

Sermon Notes

July 8, 2018



An Unlikely Founding Father

The life of Jacob is messy and would likely raise concerns among today's religious leaders! Yet God anoints him and changes his name to Israel and he is listed generations later as a father of the faith. What can we still learn today from this unlikely patriarch?

Genesis 28

12 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.

13 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. 14 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. 15 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."

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 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."

OBSERVATIONS

This is the scripture behind the song "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder". Note that this is different from the tower of Babel (Genesis 11).

God honors legacies of faith. You can carry on your family's legacy of faith, or you can be the one who begins a legacy of faith.

God keeps His promises. Regardless of our mistakes, God will not abandon us.

We are the ones who are unaware, not God. He reveals Himself to us, even when we are not seeking Him because of His love for us.

FURTHER STUDY *for a Deeper Understanding*

Read the book of Genesis - find a translation that suits you.
Take this week to read the beginning of the story...of our story
as children of God.

APPLICATION *for Daily Living*



God has a plan for YOU and no matter what YOU do,
God will see his plan to fruition

God redeemed Jacob...
He will redeem YOU too

QUESTIONS *for Discussion*

How can we help each other (and our children) connect the dots between the famous stories about Jacob? Is it important for us to realize that the stories about Jacob are all about the same man (and the man referenced in Matthew 22:23-33 and Acts 7:8)?

Where does your story have in common with Jacob's?

How does Jacob's story of redemption give you hope for your story today?