

THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Rev. Frederick L. Schnarr

Lessons: Genesis 28

One of the most beautiful dreams in the Old Testament is the dream Jacob had as he fled towards Haran from the wrath of his brother Esau.

Through the use of pressure and deceit Jacob had taken Esau's birthright and blessing. Esau was so angry about this he was planning to kill Jacob. So, at the advice of his mother, Rebekah, Jacob fled towards the city of Haran along the upper Euphrates River. This was the home of Abraham and Sarah's cousins.

We can picture Jacob with only a few supplies he could carry, travelling up and down the narrow little roadway that went north up and down over the mountains of Canaan. In those days there were no hotels or sleeping places along such roads, so when night came you had to sleep out in the open with only your cloak to cover you and protect you from the chilly night air.

So it was that Jacob took some stones to use for a pillow and went to sleep. Then it was he saw a great stairway going from the earth to heaven. On the stairway were angels going up and down, and the Lord Himself was standing at the top.

Jacob was so awed by the beauty and power of his dream, that as soon as he woke up, he took a stone he had used for a pillow, and made a marker to remember this wonderful place. He called the place Bethel, because that name means the house of God, and Jacob certainly believed that God dwelt there on the mountain top.

Jacob was a shepherd boy who knew very little about the Lord or heaven. Remember, in his day there was not the Word as we know it. The Old and New Testaments had not been written. And the Ancient Word had long since been misused and finally lost. Only a few of its stories were spoken about and remembered.

Wouldn't Jacob have been surprised if he had known the real meaning of his dream?

What is it that connects our minds on earth with the minds of the angels in heaven, and in fact, with the Lord Himself? What is it that not only connects

our lives with their lives, but actually makes it possible for them to send us feelings of love and affection? It is the WORD.

The Word, besides its stories, contains hundreds and thousands of goods and truths. There are high or spiritual good and truths, and there are lower or natural goods and truths. They are hidden in the Word like a stairway because this is how the Lord sends down His life to us, from high things all the way down to worldly things.

When we use the knowledges from the Word then our mind not only receives the loves and affections of angels, but we in turn have our loves rise up to give happiness to the angels. This is why Jacob saw angels “ascending and descending.”

The Lord’s life comes down to us through the Word, and goes back to Him through our use of the Word. The Word is the starting place for everything that is good about our lives.

This truth is so important that it is awesome.

It was “terrible” only in the sense of being terribly important. This is why Jacob wanted to be sure to remember this place. So he set up a stone as a pillar from the ones he had used for his pillow. And called the name of the place BETHEL—the house of God.

The Word is the place where the Lord lives—it is His house. Because the angels love the Word and want it in them and with them, they come down to us whenever we are in the same idea and love. They come to us as we sleep at night, and bring spiritual presents from the Lord, that we too may know the blessings of His love.

Amen