

August 3, 2008
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
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Gen. 28:10-22

Encountered by God: A Vision, A Voice & A Vow

I. Introduction to the Text:

II. Elements of the Text:

1. The Vision

- Receiving new revelation

2. The Voice

- Hearing God's voice
- Receiving God's promise
- Recognizing God's presence

3. The Vow

- Understanding God's communication
- Responding to God's presence
- Acting on God's promise

Discussion Points & Questions

1. Consider Jacob's attitude toward the covenant promises made to his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac, and the apparent deep value he placed on them personally during his youth. How is that he was so willing to wait, living at home with his parents long into adulthood? To what degree do you think he was consciously banking his whole future on the fact that God is trustworthy and would surely perform all His promises? Discuss the value, and potential influence, of parents rehearsing "faith building" events in family history with their children.
2. Consider the meaning of the ladder in the vision. How well formed was Jacob's understanding that God would enter the world as the Redeemer, and on what basis would he have arrived at this understanding? Considering the last two phrases in vs. 17, do you think that the vision actually led him to conclude that it would occur precisely at this place?
3. Why is a mediator so essential to God's plan and work of salvation? How would you describe the significance and role of Christ as Mediator to a fellow believer? How might you describe this to an unbeliever?
4. Consider the words of Yahweh to Jacob in vs. 13-15. .
 - How might they have been received by Jacob in his emotional and physical position that night?
 - How might they have served to encouraged Jacob, increase his faith, and become a source of strength throughout his life?
 - How might (should!) they apply to you in your present station in life?
5. How aware are you of the omnipresence of the Sovereign, Holy Creator; to such an extent that you consciously live portions of every day *coram Deo* – before the presence of God? What effect might a heightened consciousness of this fact have on how we "live and move and have our being".
6. What connotations does the word "awesome" stimulate in your mind? What defines an "awesome" place? Why might it be that those who have had personal, visible encounters with the Pre-Incarnate Christ, or even righteous angels, are struck with an overwhelming fear and yet greatly treasure the experience, even longing for more? Reflect on several of the most precious, or most meaningful, encounters with God that you have had in your Christian experience. Would you classify any of them as "awesome"?
7. Discuss the connection between having a profound sense of awe and the offering of true worship to God. How would you rate the "awe quotient" or the "awe-focus" in the evangelical church today? Church surveys suggest that only a small percentage of evangelical Christians tithe today. Discuss how a realization that "Surely the LORD is in this place" might positively influence believers to make the kind of commitment that Jacob made.