

Gen 28:12 “ Then he (Jacob) dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and **will bring you back to this land**; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."

17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

A. Note: **Gate of heaven:**

1. is a key to receiving the Blessings of God & The Local Church
2. The House of God is to be a “Gate of heaven” in your life / a spiritual portal
Where a spiritual ladder is dropped
 - a. where angelic ministry manifest
 - b. & from which blessings flow from heaven to earth

18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

21 **so that I come back to my father's house in peace**, then the Lord shall be my God.

22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

I. Jacob was at a time in his life when he wanted God’s best for his life, but tried to bring to God’s blessings to pass in his own strength

A. **Def Jacob:** Sub planter or deceitful

1. Gen 27: 6-29 Jacob had deceived his father Isaac by causing him to think that he was his older brother Esau.
 - a. Jacob used deception in attempt to receive his blessing / inheritance / destiny
 - b. Isaac then releases the blessing of the first born upon Jacob's life Robbing his brother Esau of this spiritual inheritance ... the blessing of the first born
 - c. Gen 27: 41- 43 it tells us that Esau hated his brother Jacob causing him to have to flee in fear for his life
 - (1) Jacob was not following the leading of the Holy Spirit
 - (2) and he was fleeing / running away from his father's house

B. This in turn causes Jacob to go on a spiritual journey that would take him out from his father's house for nearly thirty years.

1. These carnal tactics of Jacob walking in the flesh led him into a relationship with His future father – in – law (Laban) who took advantage of him and constantly robbed Jacob of his blessings
 - a. and kept Jacob out from the fullness of God's will for his life / hindering his destiny
 - (1) almost thirty years before Jacob returned to Bethel: the House of God
 - (2) almost thirty years before Jacob returned to his father's house
 - b. Jacob learned a hard lesson in life and a biblical principle we find in:
 - (a) Gal 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
 - 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

C. Jacob's life is an example of many believers who walk in carnality & flesh instead of walking in the Spirit according to Gal 5:16 & 25

1. Be it living a life of sin
 - Living a life not surrendered to the will of God
 - Or living a lukewarm spiritual life
 - Such a lifestyle always leads to the same results:
 - a. Out from the fullness of the will of God for your life and ministry
 - b. Robbed of the very blessings you were hungry for
 - c. and many out from dwelling faithfully in Bethel ... **Def. The House of God** the Lord had set you in

- (1) Bethel / the House of God / The gate of heaven / your spiritual connecting
Place where angelic ministry & blessings flow from heaven into your life

D. We find Jacob fleeing for his life and then he ends and in the midst of the mess he had made in his life just like many people who today

1. **He finds himself in Bethel** He finds himself in the House of God
2. God then speaks to Jacob at Bethel in a dream and releases a prophetic word over his life
 - a. Just like many people today ... God speaks to them in the midst of their luke warm spiritual condition, carnality or sin
 - (1) they receive a **revelation of the plan and will of God for their life** as Jacob did in Gen 28:12-15
 - (2) Could be thru the message preached, a prophetic word, or a song sung in the Praise & Worship ... they hear from God!!!!
 - (3) Also like Jacob they **come to the altar** as seen in vs 17-19
 - (a) But, because of still yielding to the flesh / carnal nature ... instead of total surrender they try to work out a deal with God, Jacob tries to manipulate God into a bargain on his terms
 - (1) Lord I know your presence is here at Bethel / the House of God
 - (2) I know that was your Spirit that spoke to me
 - (3) But I want to do my own thing right now / do things my way
 - (4) But if would keep me and meet my needs I will send an offering from time to time
3. **God knows just like Jacob, people at this place in life are not ready to surrender**
 - a. they are going to go out and do there own thing
 - b. try to bring to pass their dreams in their own strength
4. but in the midst of this spiritual state God gave Jacob as He does believers today who are also in this same spiritual condition ... gives them a promise:
 - a. vs 15 Behold, **I am with you** and will **keep you** wherever you go, and **will bring you back to this land**; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."
 - (1) The mistake that is made when people hear of God's faithfulness & His Promise to not forsake them
 - (a) they think that they have a free ticket to do their own thing

- (b) and everything is going to work out as they planned
- © regardless of their commitment level to God
- (2) God allowed Jacob to go his own way and reap the consequences of his disobedience and walking in the flesh
 - (a) Like Jacob God will allow us to go our own way and reap the painful price that comes from being out of the will of God
 - (1) But in the midst of it **all God's hand is still working in your life**
 - (a) Phil 2:13 "for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure".
- (3) But when we have gotten our fill of sin ... eating quail / like Israel in the wilderness ... and there is no other where else to turn
 - (a) God will speak into your life again, reminding us what He had previously Promised and "**will bring you back to this land**" Back to Bethel Back to the House of God Back to your father's house .. Back to your destiny
 - (1) Like Jacob You can come home again
- 5. Be it the Jacob of Genesis or the Jacob's of today you will meet a Laban that is craftier than you
 - a. who will take advantage of you
 - b. and keep you away from Bethel Keep you away from your father's House Keep you out from the House of God / keep you out from your destiny
 - c. then life becomes hard Difficult ... disappointing
- 6. **The Laban in your life may be:**
 - (1) and unsaved man / woman you think you cannot live without
 - (2) might be prosperity, money ... job ... career Cares & pleasures of this world Whatever idol you put before Jesus
 - (3) it may be an un-teachable spirit
 - (4) it may be a spirit of rebellion or pride & you determine that you will submit to no one
 - (5) or it may be some form of sin you are not willing to repent of
 - (6) Your Laban may be a lukewarm spirit that draws you away from the will of God
 - (a) either way ... if you are headed down this path, you are headed on A spiritual journey that will rob you of years of God's best for your life And ministry, as Jacob did

(1) Sin will & disobedience take you further than you planned on going

(2) and keep you longer than you wanted to stay

(3) For Jacob it was a total of **twenty years** serving Laban

(a) Even when Jacob left Laban he was still not willing to totally surrender
To the will of God & word of the Lord spoken over his life

(1) because it took Jacob another **ten years** before he returned to Bethel
The House of God ... he just wandered in the wilderness

7. And before Jacob returned to his father's house **Brokenness** had to come into his heart before he was willing to surrender to the will of God as seen in: Gen 32:24 "Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

27 So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

a. Like Jacob it is not until we **get alone with God**

(1) and like Jesus in the garden Wrestled with God in prayer until we reach
The place of surrender that the fullness of the blessing of God is released

(a) Luke 22:42 "nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

(2) Transformation Takes place in our lives when **God puts a limp in our Walk** as He did Jacob

(a) The limp that came into the life of Jesus life after he wrestled and surrendered to His Father's will was: **CALVARY'S CROSS**

b. **God is looking for a people who have a limp in their walk**

(1) When you have a limp in your walk you need someone to lean on

(a) Jesus wants you leaning on Him

(b) this spiritual limp in our walk is a type of no longer dependant upon self & Flesh

© It is a walk that says: Jesus I cannot make it without you

(2) For Jacob it went from being called a deceiver / sub planter ... to a name change: Israel That defined his **new identity: ISRAEL**

(a) a man that wrestled with God to the place of total surrender

(1) For us today the bible describes it this way:

(a) Gal 4:19 “until Christ is formed in you...”

(b) 2 Cor 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

E. Jacob of Genesis and the prodigal son in the Gospel of Luke; both Came to the revelation **that the key to his life turning around & his dream coming to pass centered around the fact that he HAD TO GO BACK HOME AGAIN HAD TO COME BACK TO BETHEL / get back to the House of God BACK TO THE HOUSE OF HIS FATHER**

1. Jacob tells The Lord:

a. Gen 28:21 “**so that I come back to my father’s house in peace**”

(1) Just like the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-18

(a) People demand their inheritance and leave their father’s house to
Live a life of sin ... only to loose everything they had

(b) or: How many disgruntled / offended Christians leave their local church ...
only to get out of God’s will for their live

(1) An offense does not give us permission to get out of the will of God

(c) or: How many young ministers think they are ready and go to their spiritual
father ... thinking they know more Thinking they know better &
demand their spiritual inheritance ... only to loose it all

2. Like Jacob: believers today need to understand that if he ever expected to see the
fullness of God’s will & blessing manifest in his life

a. you have to get back to his father’s house

b. you have to get back to Bethel / The House of God

F. I have good news for you ... **YOU CAN COME HOME AGAIN**

1. It says this of the prodigal son in Luke 15:17-18

a. vs 17 “And when **he came to himself**,

(New American Standard Trans: “**when he came to his senses**”...)

Vs 18 “I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have
sinned against heaven, and before thee,”

(1) Does not matter how long it has been

(2) does not matter how low in life the powers of darkness may have brought

you

(a) You can come home again

(b) if you are willing to repent & come back on God's terms not your own

.... The blessings of your father's house can be restored in your life, family, home, career, ministry, walk with God, health, finances Etc.

II. In Gen 35:1-8 we discover six keys on how to come home again

"Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

2 And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.

3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."

4 So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.

5 And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

6 So Jacob came to Luz (**that is, Bethel**), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him."

7. And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother."

A. Key #1 vs 1 "Arise, go up to Bethel"

vs 3 "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; ...

1. Personally must arise from our present situation & take a step of faith back to Bethel ... back to the House of God

a. and if you have a family ... they also need to back to the House of God:

(1) Then let **us** arise and go to Bethel"

(a) Not just the wife But husband also

(b) not just mom & dad ... but children & teenagers also

(1) Joshua said: Josh 24:15 "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

B. Key #2 vs 1 “**dwelt there**” Dwell at Bethel ... dwell in the House of God

1. **Def Dwell:** to sit down, remain, to settle in

- a. not talking about Attending the House of God once in a while
- b. not talking running from church to church
- c. not talking about sitting under the covering of your natural or spiritual father from time to time / or only come home when you have a need

(1) Dwell There Settle in Make it your home ,.....

(2) do not let anything move you ... remain

(a) don't let circumstances move you out

(b) don't let an offense move you out

(1) “Dwell There” New American Standard Trans: “**LIVE THERE**”

(a) One of the ways that we seek first the Kingdom of God according to Matt 6:33

(b) One of the signs that you are no longer walking in the flesh ... but Walking in the Spirit

(1) One of the signs that you have humbled yourself under the “Hand of God” according to James 4:10 & 1 Pet 5:5&6 is to be obedient to the Teaching of the Word of God that instructs us in:

(a) Heb 10:25 “ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(1) The reality of it is this:

(a) if you are unfaithful to the House of God you do not “see the Day approaching” Jesus return

(b) Jesus coming to you will be as a “Thief in the night” 1 Thes 5:2 & 2 Pet 3:10

© You will be like the five “foolish virgins” / Matt 25:1

(1) who had no oil in their lamp Matt 25:3

(2) the Light of Jesus no longer shining thru their life

(3) spiritually deaf & not able to hear the “midnight cry” : “Behold The Bridegroom / Jesus is coming” Matt 25:6

(a) spiritually deaf to the shout ... voice of the arch-angel & not hear the sounding of trumpet 1 Thes 4:16

© Instead of being “caught up together with them in the clouds to meet The Lord in the air”

(1) Hearing Jesus say: Rev 3:16 “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

(a) Time to Dwell in Bethel / The House of God

C. Key #3 vs 1 “**Make an altar there to God**”

1. The altar is the place where we **bring our sacrifices** unto The Lord

a. and we need to live our lives in total surrender on the altar of God:

(1) Rom 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

2. Also the Altar is a type and shadow of the **place of prayer**:

a. Speaking of having a prayer life

(1) spending time on a daily basis seeking the face of God in prayer

(a) 1 Thess 5:17 “pray without ceasing,”

(1) Bringing your requests & petitions unto God in prayer Phil 4:6

(2) Praying in the Spirit keeping your self built up in the faith Jude vs 20 & Eph 6:18

(3) Praying & doing spiritual warfare ... binding & loosening Matt 18:18 & Eph 6:12

(4) & taking the time to be still & get alone with God ... listening to His Voice Ps 46:10

D. Key #4 vs 1 “**Put away the foreign gods that are among you,...**”

1. time to put away our idols Everything we put before God and make Jesus Our first love Rev 2:4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

a. What or whom ever you placed ahead of Jesus and coming to Bethel ... The House of God “Put away the foreign gods”

b. time to **put away every excuse** /

(1) Luke 14:18 “And they all with one consent began to **make excuse.**”

(2) Look what happens to those who make excuses in regards to why they Cannot put Jesus first Those who cannot make them time to come to Bethel / the House of God:

(a) Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant,

Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that

My house may be filled.

24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.”

- (1) This invitation is not just for coming to the marriage supper of The Lamb
- (2) But also that “My House Your father’s House / my be filled” on Earth & heaven
 - (a) Jesus said in the Lord’s Prayer: Matt 6:10 “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”.

E. Key #5 “purify yourselves”

1. **Def Purify:** to be clean

2. Speaking of living a **holy life:**

- a. 1 Peter 1:15 “but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

3. To Purify ourselves also speaks of **sanctification:**

- a. **Def Sanctify:** the word sanctify does not stop with just living holy ... but also means to set apart, consecrate & to dedicate

(1) We are God’s vessel that are to be set apart for the plan & purpose of God Surrendered to the will of God

(a) Ex 28:41 “So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them,

(1) Just as Aaron & his sons were to live sanctified / set apart lives for the Priesthood

(2) we are expected by God to do the same as New Testament Priests

1 Pet 2:5 & 9

(a) fulfilling our priestly ministry

(b) fulfilling our calling & ministry

F. Key #6 “change your garments”

1. God told Jacob ... when you come to Bethel: change your garment”\

- a. The word “garment” not only means a piece of cloth But also a spiritual & natural covering

(1) When Jacob came back to Bethel he was no longer wearing the covering

Of Laban

(2) No longer wearing a spiritual covering the world had to offer due to being out
From the will of God, lukewarm, or sin

(a) Jacob changed his garments ... changed his covering ... so no residue of
The past could follow him into his future

2. In the parable of the prodigal son, the father said: “Luke 15:22 “Bring forth the
best robe”

a. When you come home again ... when you come back to Bethel

(1) whatever the pick sty of the world put on your for your covering ...

(a) Your Heavenly father

(b) & your spiritual father Will change your garments ... change your
Covering

© and place upon you “the best robe” **That can only be placed upon your
Life when you come back home ... come back to Bethel**

(1) Robe of righteousness Isa 61:10

(2) The Garment of praise in exchange for the spirit of heaviness Isa 61:3

(3) Garment of Salvation Isa 61:10

III. Gen 35: 6 So Jacob came to Luz (**that is, Bethel**), which is in the land of Canaan,
he and all the people who were with him.”

7. And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel,
(The House of God)

A. You can come home again But come home for a purpose

1. The plan ... purpose ... will of God for your life

2. If you would like to do as Jacob did

a. come to an altar and come home again In surrender to Jesus

(1) take a step of faith and come up to this altar today