

Genesis 28:12

THE MYSTERY LADDER

(Introduction: *Job 33:15-16*: ¹⁵ *In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;* ¹⁶ *Then he openeth the ears of men and sealeth their instruction.*

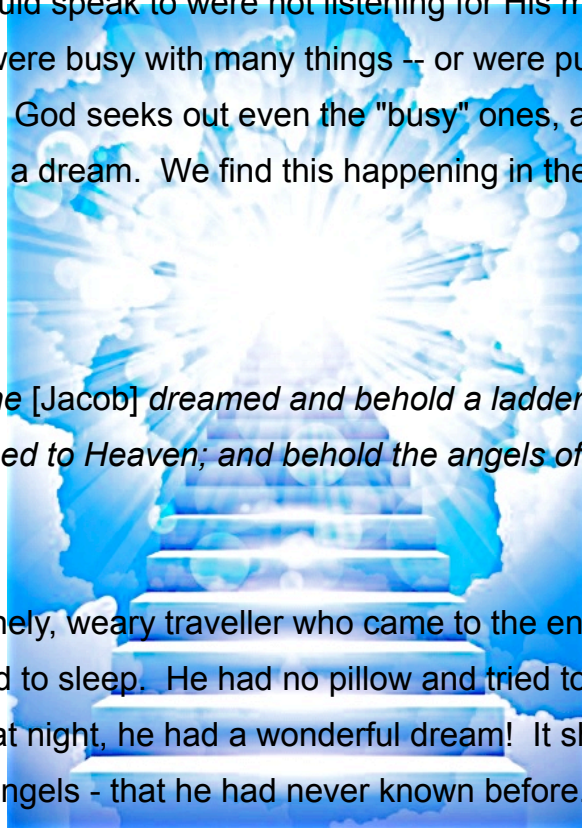
Many times incidents are recorded in the Bible that tell us God spoke to His children by means of a dream, or a vision in the night. Sometimes this has been necessary because those He would speak to were not listening for His message during their waking hours. They were busy with many things -- or were purposely evading real communion with Him. God seeks out even the "busy" ones, and the unyielded ones -- sometimes through a dream. We find this happening in the portion of God's Word we will study today.)

TEXT:

Genesis 28:12: And he [Jacob] dreamed and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to Heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

The Bible tells of a lonely, weary traveller who came to the end of a long day and lay down upon the ground to sleep. He had no pillow and tried to make one out of a stone. As he slept that night, he had a wonderful dream! It showed him something about Heaven - and angels - that he had never known before.

As his eyes swept upwards on those steps, he saw a sight that never man had seen: This ladder reached to the very throne of God in the highest heaven. As he watched, he saw angels ascending and descending on this ladder from heaven to earth.



DREAMS like this come only from the Lord and, for the first time in his life, he saw the Lord standing at the very top of that ladder. He is talking to this weary pilgrim, and this is what Jesus said:

Genesis 28:13-15: ¹³ am the LORD God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac. The land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. ¹⁴ And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south, and in thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ And behold, I am with thee and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again unto this land, for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."

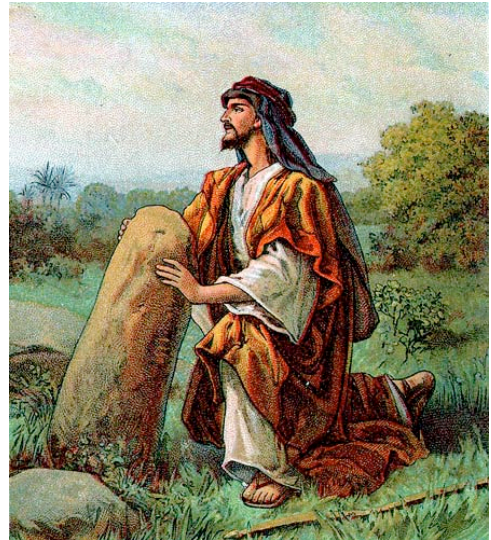
He has never seen nor heard anything like this -- in all his put-together -- and when he awakens, he is startled and cries out: *"How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the House of God, and this is the Gate to Heaven."*

(Genesis 28:17)

It is beyond any other explanation to him. He is so taken by what he saw and heard that he, at once, surrenders his life to the Lord and makes a solemn promise:

Genesis 28:20-22

²⁰ And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, ²¹ So that I come again to my Father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: ²² And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.



Jacob builds an altar to the Lord.