

JACOB'S LADDER PART 3

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Genesis 28:10-22

We return this morning to our study of Jacob's conversion experience here in Genesis 28. We have entitled our message, 'Jacob's Ladder. As we said last week, we want to consider the important application in regards to the gospel. There are 6 things we presented to you:

- I. **Jacob's Deception.**
- II. **Jacob's Departure.**
- III. **Jacob's Dream.**
- IV. **Jacob's Discovery.**
- V. **Jacob's Delight.**
- VI. **Jacob's Dedication.**

We have already seen Jacob's Deception and Jacob's Departure and are currently seeking to conclude our third point Jacob's Dream, we set forth 8 things from this third point:

- III. **Jacob's Dream.**
 1. **The Savior of the Ladder.**
 2. **The Setting Up of the Ladder.**
 3. **The Sacredness of the Ladder.**
 4. **The Singleness of the Ladder.**
 5. **The Seraphim's of the Ladder.**
 6. **The Sovereign of the Ladder.**
 7. **The Seed of the Ladder.**
 8. **The Security of the Ladder.**

We have seen first that Jesus Christ is ladder yea the Savior of the ladder. Secondly we saw that the Setting up of the Ladder is a type or the doctrine of the incarnation of Christ. Thirdly, we saw that the Sacredness of the Ladder represents the doctrine of reconciliation, wherein Christ reconciles us to God, but we also said it could also represent the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fourthly, we said that the Singleness of the Ladder represents the doctrine of the mediator-ship of Christ, 1 Tim.2:5, "*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*" Fifthly, we saw the Seraphim's of the Ladder, that this represented the ministering angels of God. Hebrews 1:14, "*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*" Sixthly, we concluded last week with the Sovereign of the Ladder, that is, in verse 13 of our text, "*And, **behold, the LORD** stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.*" The top of this needful ladder reached heaven and our third

behold tells us that the one who stood above it was Jehovah/Yahweh-Elohim, the LORD God of Abraham and Isaac. This must have really touched the heart of Jacob, for He knew without a shadow of doubt that this was none other than the Living and True God of his father and grandfather, to whom the promises of God belonged. God is confirming, ratifying and renewing the covenant made to his fathers which now He made with Jacob, but we also saw that when God saves a sinner He remembers, enters and renews the everlasting covenant. God covenants with a sinner in the grace of salvation. To every sinner God saves He renews that glorious covenant, the everlasting covenant that is made by the precious blood of Christ. Heb. 13:20 & 21, *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* It is that blood of the everlasting covenant that we find our hope and security in Christ, yes, He is that ladder set upon earth, but reaching the glories of heaven and God stands above it to covenant with Jacob. Therefore, The Sovereign God of heaven and earth spoke to Jacob from above the ladder and declared, confirmed, ratified and renewed the promise given to Abraham and Isaac; notice carefully the words of Psalm 105:8-10, *“He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. 9 Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; 10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant.”* Again, this is what God does when He saves a sinner He remembers, He declares, He confirms, He ratifies and He renews His everlasting covenant with them. I love what it says in Ezekiel 16:8, *“Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.”* This is, but a type of God covenanting with us in the grace of salvation! This brings to our seventh point:

7. The Seed of the Ladder.

Seventhly, the Seed of the ladder, again verse 13, *“And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and **to thy seed.**”* Now in the Abrahamic covenant there was a particular promise that was continued to Isaac and now to Jacob and that is seen in verse 14 also, *“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 **in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**”* The promise is made to Abraham first in Gen.12:2 & 3, *“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* In verse 7, *“And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed** will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”* Then the promise was made to Isaac in Gen.26:3 & 4, *“Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and **unto thy seed**, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; 4 And **I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.**”* Now here in Genesis 28, God makes it also

with Jacob. Though I understand that this is in reference to the land, but there is a two-fold application here, because there is something better that supersedes the land and that is, the seed also represents the Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of verse 14 it says again, "...and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth **be blessed.**" We will look at this word blessed in a moment, but for now, there is a twofold blessing set forth here, one physical and the other spiritual. The land was given to the seed of Abraham, but in that seed also included Jesus Christ and therefore the spiritual supersedes the essence of the physical land. Now, I know this type of interpretation upsets a lot of people and in particular Dispensational Pre-mils. It is not my point to get into an eschatological discussion here, but I am open to any and all questions regarding this issue, my interest for the present moment again is the application of the gospel and this is where I will camp for right now. I want us to turn to the third chapter Galatians and consider what Paul wrote in Gal.3:8 & 9, "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, **In thee shall all nations be blessed.** 9 So then **they which be of faith are blessed** with faithful Abraham." The blessing is seen and found in the gospel not the land. Let me just back up a little here, look at verses 6 & 7, "Even as **Abraham believed God,** and **it was accounted to him for righteousness.** 7 Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**" In these 4 verses, twice a particular word is used to describe a group a people. The pronoun, 'they,' describes a certain group of people. Who are these people described by the pronoun they? Are they just Jews or does it encompass Jews and Gentiles? In the seed is included all the elect of God, both Jew and Gentile which makes up the Israel of God. So that you will not think that I am pushing my view on eschatology or that I am being presumptuous in my description of the pronouns they, look as Isaiah 54:1-3, "Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. 2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and **thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles,** and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." Again, I'll repeat myself, in the seed is included all the elect of God, both Jew and Gentile which makes up the Israel of God. Amazing that between 2 of the most glorious chapters in the Bible, chapters 53 & 55, we find chapter 54 speaking about enlarging the tents and curtains of the Jews to include the Gentiles. Isaiah 53 speaks about the great work of the atonement of Christ in behalf of sinners and then in Isaiah 55 we see the blessed gospel proclamation to all, notice quickly Isaiah 55:1 and following... As we saw last week under our point on, the Sovereign of the Ladder, we dealt with the essence of the everlasting covenant, here we have it again. Perhaps we can say; that the aspect of the seed and covenant are the means God uses by working them together hand in hand in the effectual work of salvation of God's elect. Whether we are called His seed or His covenant people it describes the elect people of God. Remember this ladder is Christ and everything surrounding it is the out workings of the gospel.

If we return to Galatians chapter 3 it gets much clearer, for example look at verses 13 – 16 of Galatians 3, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:

for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That **the blessing** of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; (This '**BLESSING**' is in reference to Genesis 12 and any and all subsequent references to that blessing, which was renewed with Isaac and then Jacob here in Genesis 28) that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, **And to thy seed, which is Christ.**" This is clear application that the reference to the seed with its subsequent blessing is found in CHRIST! We reiterate that the promises were made to Abraham and his seed which included all the elect of God. Remember, this concept of all the elect inclusive transcends the time of Abraham, it began in Genesis 3, Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 4:25, "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, **hath appointed me another seed** instead of Abel, whom Cain slew." Then we also know that the everlasting covenant was made in eternity past before the foundations of the earth. The seed is inclusive of Gentiles, those Gentiles who God will save. All those who God saved from Adam to Abraham were Gentiles, thus, Gentiles were already included in the seed when God gave it to Abraham. All of us here this morning that name the name of Christ, that profess salvation in Christ Jesus are Gentiles, we're Gentiles and if we are in Christ we are included in the seed, in the promise, yea in the covenant!

Let's go back to Galatians chapter 3 and look at the last few verses 26 – 29, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**" This is so clear and unambiguous or unmistakable in any form, shape or manner. The details are very clear, lucid and transparent in the application, "...**if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**"

To show more clearly that the spiritual blessing supersedes the physical blessing of the land, notice the words of Peter in Acts 3:12-26. The blessing is the gospel of the grace of God, the blessing is salvation and the blessing is in the forgiveness of sins. This is clear, so evident by anyone who studies the word of God objectively.

We will look at one more, only to make the point, the Seed of the Ladder is none other than our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, He is the ladder, He is the seed, and He is the only Savior of sinners.

Turn quickly to Hebrews 6:13 and following... The Apostle Paul again uses Abraham as a pattern, why? Because Abraham is the father of all believers, the blessing and the promises were made to him are ours also, because ALL the PROMISES of God are in Christ Jesus and are yea and in HIM AMEN! Notice Paul's word to the Romans in chapter 4, Romans 4:1, "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?" Romans 4:11 & 12, "And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the

righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: 12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.” Romans 4:16 - 18, “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.”

The blessing is again Jesus Christ Himself, that's why when God promise in Gen.12:2 & 3, *“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* It also included the GENTILES, perhaps not the land, but the SPIRITUAL BLESSING of FORGIVENESS in JESUS CHRIST! The blessing is therefore the gospel where with all the families of the earth shall be blessed, i.e. by the gospel going out to the four corners of the earth. This is why we need to not only support our missionaries also to pray for our missionaries, as they seek to take the gospel throughout the whole earth. Yes, if you have eyes to see this morning, Jesus Christ is the Seed of the LADDER!