

## A THRILLING DISCOVERY

### Genesis 28:10-21

**Introduction:** Picture a man, all alone, far from home, tired, homesick, in a remote place, the night was dark and silent. He is in distress, mentally, emotionally and physically. Lying on the ground, trying to go to sleep, suddenly he hears a voice from the heavens, then sees a bright light shining around him. He is startled, afraid, but at the same time curious. Who is speaking, where is the bright light coming from, what is happening?

#### I. WHO IS THIS LONELY MAN THAT HAS THIS HAPPENING TO HIM?

1. Surprisingly and encouragingly he was not a "holy" man.
  - He was not a clean-hearted man.
  - He was in no sense a "saint" nor a decent man.
  - He was a trickster, a cheat.
2. He was not on some holy quest, seeking God.
  - He was a fugitive, running for his life.
3. If only the holy, pure, and sinless hear the voice of God and find the gates of heaven, then there would be little if no hope for this man or for us.
4. However, since a man like this one (Jacob) can get God's attention, then there is hope for others.

#### II. HOW DID THIS MAN, JACOB, HAVE THIS HAPPEN TO HIM?

1. It was not by some accident or sheer luck, not by chance did it happen.
  - It was not because he was a favorite of God.
2. Suppose a singer is asked to grant one of his/her admirers the ability to get more pleasure out of his/her singing than anybody else. Logical? Reasonable? Silly?
3. Suppose a custodian of an art museum is told by a man, "see to it that I get more inspiration from the artwork than anybody else.." Logical? Reasonable? Silly?
4. It is ridiculous to think that someone can enable another person the capacity to enjoy music, get more out of artwork than anybody else. It depends upon each person's own abilities.
5. God is eager to reveal, to give, to enable, to bless every person BUT...
  - If that person, if we don't receive what God wants to give, it is not God's fault, it is up to each person, up to us, to personally receive what God wants to give.
  - Remember how this man, Jacob, heard God's voice, saw the lights of heaven?
6. This man, Jacob, had a sense of his own needs.
  - He was homesick, it was dark, he was lonely and sick in his soul.

7. This man, Jacob, realized that all his troubles were his own fault.
  - It is natural to blame others - for a while anyhow.
  - There comes a time, however, when honesty sinks in, "It's MY fault!"
  
8. Repentance makes it possible for God to be able to reveal Himself to us.
  - Jacob was "ready," his soul wanted to make things right.
  - Jacob became sorrowful and ashamed.
  - If a person has no need, he/she will never find heaven's lights, but when a person becomes lonely, broken, at the end of the road, no where to go, no one who understands, all hopes gone, THEN heaven's gates are just around the corner.
  
9. For us, Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, the LIFE. He is the gateway to Heaven.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. As with this man, Jacob, God is not far away.
2. There is rest, a home for the struggling, hurting soul.
3. God's place of peace, Heaven, is nearby, at hand.
4. The gates to this wonderful place, Heaven, stand open.
5. NOTHING is the same anymore with someone who sees the gates of Heaven.
6. As with Jacob, the stairway to Heaven start at our feet, it is up to us whether to go up the steps or not.