

Introduction

(Genesis 27: 46- 29:11)

This article is focusing on the story surrounding Jacob in his journey from Canaan to Haran to get a bride. Within the duration of his journey Jacob experiences a vision of what is commonly known as Jacob's ladder. It deeply affects him, awakening him from his sleep and causing him to respond in certain ways. The general effect of this article is to emphasize the importance of having our eyes opened to see Jesus.

Some elements may suggest that seeing the Lord will affect every aspect of our lives from that day forward. More than a spiritual experience it will allow the risen Christ to be our source and light in all things, therefore permitting us to stand as Jacob's ladder allowing Christ's life to flow through us into the earth even as it is in Him, our Head who is in heaven. Even though we find ourselves physically in the earth in vessels made of clay, truly in reality we are the body of Him who is raised up and seated in heavenly places.

May His reality fill our eyes and His life flow through us to others.

*This is a Fire Ministries article by Kelly Koshatka
that is meant to draw your heart closer to the
Person of our Lord and Life, Jesus Christ.*

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Jacob's Awakening

Part One

Rebekah Despairs Of Life

We will start with Rebekah in a state of despair concerning her son Esau's wives that were not of the house of Israel. These foreign women were a "grief of mind" to both Isaac and Rebekah (*Gen. 26:35*), and were causing Rebekah to be weary of even being alive (*Gen. 27:46*). So Isaac sends away Jacob, their other son, with his blessing to go to the house of Rebekah's father in Padam-aram to take for himself a wife from the daughters of Rebekah's brother Laban. And so Jacob obeys his father and mother and sets off towards Padam-aram to get his future wife.

Esau's Best Is Still Not Enough!

"And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife." (Gen. 28:8-9)

When Esau recognized his parents' displeasure with his foreign wives, he makes an attempt to redeem himself and get back into his parents right standing. So he goes to Abraham's son Ishmael, who was conceived by the bondwoman, and marries his daughter.

Ishmael has always represented a type of doing things through the instrumentality of the flesh. The flesh was also Esau's way and

therefore his downfall. No pleasure or favor would be found in Esau trying to take a bride after the flesh. Jacob would see from above what the Bride looked like and therefore understand how to find and form her in the earth.

A Path With No Purpose

“And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padam-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother’s father; and take a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother’s brother.” (Gen. 28:1-2)

When Jacob first departed on his journey, sent by his father, the scriptures say that “Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padam-aram” (Gen. 28:7). He knew it was his father’s will to go, and trusted that this would be the path that would eventually lead to the fulfillment of God’s promises to him and his forefathers, Abraham and Isaac. But Jacob had no vision to walk in, only commands to follow. And so he sets forth on his journey trusting God to bless and prosper his way. The path he was meant to follow was clear, but Jacob had yet to comprehend its purpose.

Deep within the heart of man we know that our purpose for existing has far greater meaning than merely following through with plans, even plans given by God. Eternity whispers in our hearts that God’s call in our lives surpasses this temporal realm, including even our own lives, and has come forth from the very desire of God Himself. And so we press past basic understandings of the scriptures and “Christian activity” into seeking the face of God that we might know His heart and be motivated by His desire. Once that happens our actions surpass mere obedience into becoming a part of what is in heaven flowing into the earth. We learn to see beyond the circumstance and to hear beyond the words into the heart of the person. As we abide in our union with the risen Son we are no longer walking as men but as sons of God by Christ, joined to Him who is from above.

connected to Jacob. We have something we didn’t have before we were born again, we have Jesus. Our hope comes from the fact that we are in Jesus so that all He is can flow into us just like the oil flowed over the rock when Jacob saw the ladder. Our hope is that Jesus is in us, so that no matter how earthen and barren the vessel may appear outwardly, the Fountain of Life Himself is deep within. Rejoice oh barren, your Maker is Your Husband, He who gave Himself for you in death also gives Himself to you as Life!

Awakening From The Sleep Of Death

Before Jacob awoke from His blindness, all He could see was the earth and the things in it. After His “experience” with reality He said, “Surely God is in this place and I knew it not.” How powerful is it for the Eternal Godhead, divine reality of all things, to be inhabiting a place and for us to not have any notion of it AT ALL??? The thought of that should stir us from our slumber to crying out for the eyes of our hearts to be opened that we might see the hope of His calling.

From that day forward, after our eyes have been opened by the Holy Spirit to see Jesus, we should no longer walk as men. We will not stumble about as zombies groping in darkness, but rather we will scale the high places with the nimbleness of one who is no longer entangled with the barriers of this realm. To truly see is to no longer be motivated governmentally by your earth environment, but to be a channel of heaven into it. This is how Jacob’s ladder functions. After Jacob saw things in the light of reality, God’s view, he was able to order his responses from true clarity.

(Stay tuned next month for Jacob’s Awakening Part Two!)

going beyond just hearing His words to receiving them as the kisses from His mouth. Her response to Him goes beyond accepting the truth to accepting the person. Even greater than agreeing with His doctrine she is receiving His spirit and mind.

*“His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely.”
(Song of Songs 5:16)*

When Jacob saw the Lord he may have been deeply affected by His love for His Bride, the house that embodied His Spirit. The Lord’s desire towards her overwhelmed him as he saw the ladder flowing down into her with His words of life and oneness. And so when he kissed Rachel, something deep inside Him greatly affected by seeing the heart of the Lord for His Bride, lifted up from within him and wept.

We Are Not Wives Of Ishmael’s Line

“Do not look upon me for I am black and uncomely, but the Son hath looked upon me.” Although what we are may not have appeared yet, deep within we are one spirit with the Lord and He will come forth in His time. It is His appearing that explains our identity. There may be many who can make quite a good “show in the flesh” and appear to be much more fruitful than Rachel. Yet barren Rachel is one with Jacob and will bring forth by promise. We may be tempted to lose faith even in the Lord’s view of us when we know ourselves after the flesh, but it is what is true in the Spirit that will prevail and eventually manifest. We may appear harder and drier than the deadest limb in the area, but remember...if you’re joined to Jesus there is water in that rock! Instead of cursing our condition we should look up to our Head and allow His word to flow down and wash us with our true identity.

“Esau’s wives” way may have strength in the flesh and a season of showing forth temporary change, but because it proceeds from the flesh it will fade for it’s glory is not the Son. Rachel may be laying there looking barren and fruitless compared to the wife after the flesh, but she has something the other doesn’t have...she is

Am I Dreaming, Or Have I Just Woke Up!

“And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold angels (winged messengers) of God ascending and descending on it. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Gen. 28:12, 16-17)

In the middle of Jacob’s mission he lies down to rest one night in a place called “Luz”. In the midst of his slumber, God opens Jacob’s eyes and shows him what is going on in the Spirit. The Lord pulls away the veil of the earth and opens Jacob’s eyes to see the Lord in heaven flowing down into the earth through messengers that are ascending and descending upon a ladder that stands between heaven and earth. Jacob’s response may seem to infer that it was not merely those sent with tidings from a God far away, but that what was in the Lord was flowing into the earth through beings that had received wings. These winged messengers were possibly carrying the Lord Himself into this realm, carriers of His life flowing forth in such a living manner that what was in Him who is above is also coming forth into the earth through them. It may be something to consider that these beings were possibly something other than angelic hosts sent forth to do duties for Almighty God, for angels were not able to contain Christ within. Only God’s people who have become His habitation can bear His fullness, for after Jacob saw them he cried out, “Surely God Himself is in this place... we are the house of God...and I knew it not!!! This is awesome!”

Having Eyes Now To Find Her

Remember, Jacob was on a mission to get a bride. But how would he recognize her to find her? He did not have clear instructions like Eliezer had from Abraham when he went to get Isaac’s wife. But God shared heavenly vision with Jacob. After Jacob saw the house of God from above flowing forth with life that came from the Head, he would know what to look for.

Having eyes to see, Jacob would be able to discern beyond the earth, and deeper than the present condition into one who was of the heart of the Bride. We tend to see only what is presented before our eyes, but Jacob was learning to discern from the source of things. He had seen that what was true in heaven as the source would flow into and fill the earth of those who would choose to become vessels of the Lord's fullness.

He Is Forming Us

"And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place the House of God, 'Bethel'." (Gen. 28: 18-19)

In Jacob's vision, at the top of the ladder is the Lord and all that is in Him. At the bottom of the ladder is Jacob asleep on a stone! In practical terms, the stone or stones that Jacob is sleeping on appear like a clump of hard and unformed earth. Particularly in his sleeping state, Jacob probably thought nothing more about that stone than, "This is a hard and uncomfortable pillow!" Yet after he was awakened by God's heavenly vision Jacob took that same stone that he was "asleep" on and poured oil over the top of it, calling the name of that place the house of God!

There may have been times in our lives when the Lord has pointed to a fellow saint in the earth and asked what we see. With our carnal eyes we might have responded that they looked like an unformed piece of earth with a hard, stony heart, a lump of clay, or just a handful of rocks. And the Lord may have answered from His risen view, "It is my house, it is my Bride, it may look yet unformed but it is what came out from my death and out from my side, and I am in her." Our next response could be "Oops!" and "I need to see Jesus!"

How beautiful to see the Lord Himself reaching down through His messengers as they flow down from Him upon that ladder

and he understands according to the heavenly vision what these things mean. This little shepherdess is the one, and he responds by drawing forth the waters within the well and watering her father's sheep. He saw in her a heart that would care for the father's sheep, that would be a vessel to bring forth the Lord, and one that Jacob could help form according to her true beautiful identity as one with the risen Lord. Many, many years later Jesus would be sitting at this very same well and see another woman with the same eyes (*Jn. 4*).

Jacob's Kiss

*"And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept."
(Gen. 29:11)
"He has kissed me with the kisses of His mouth."
(Song of Songs 1:2)*

Jacob's kiss represents him breathing into her all that he knows her to be. His kiss represents accepting and loving her in her true form as he has seen her to be from above. Within his kiss were eyes that lovingly held her in his being as what she truly was in his heart. He would not just speak powerful words to her about what he had seen in his heavenly vision, but his mouth would tenderly communicate to her the oneness that was settled in the heavens, a union established by "Him who loved me and gave Himself for me." Our mouths may be able to share many powerful truths about the reality of our union with Christ, but when our eyes have seen the heart of the Lord to such a degree that we can flow down bearing His love, our manner of sharing becomes saturated with the Lord's Spirit. Jacob has become more than just a declarer of the heavens, but a ladder that brought down the heart of the Lord.

The spirit in which He ministers His word to us is almost as important as the words He is ministering, for His words are spirit and life and we are coming to know and be filled with a Person. We can learn as much from the spirit of His kisses as we do from the words they are imparting. She has found the Spirit of Truth,

Quite possibly the sight of this huge stone on the mouth of the well reminded Jacob of another stone he had just poured oil over. Jacob may have remembered that memorial representing the house of God where God was. He understood that although this stone he was now seeing was very great and covered the well... there were waters deep within the well beneath. Here again, what may appear hard, earthly and blocked really contained waters for the sheep of the flock. Here again, instead of judging it as dead and lifeless, he was learning to see from above that it had life in it.

God had given Jacob heavenly vision so that he would be able to understand how to see the bride He was leading him to.

You might consider that, when someone is joined to the Lord, they have waters of His life deep within. We may yet appear barren and dry and hard and lifeless to those who only see after the flesh. But those who have seen the risen Lord will know that God is in her and this is the House of God. They will draw out the water from what appears to be a stone, and they will pour oil over the top of the Rock believing that all the fullness and root and fatness of that which is in our risen and anointed Head will flow down into the Body in all fullness. These are those who function as a part of Jacob's ladder. You can only function as a part of Jacob's ladder when you have been awakened to see what truly is.

Go Get Her Jacob!!!

"And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother." (Gen 29:10)

After doing some inquiring, Jacob found out that these people were his mother's family. The next moment, here comes Rachel with her father's sheep. Jacob takes one look at her and rolls the stone off the well, waters the flock, kisses Rachel and starts to cry! He is overwhelmed by what God has opened his eyes to see,

reaching forth through them to mold her and form her according to the finished work in His heart, according to her true identity in the risen Son. His hand extended through these messengers does not mishandle the Lord's body, but with tender love and heavenly vision they pour forth His oils and words of life over them, causing that which was asleep to live.

Go Ahead, Pour Oil On It!

As Jacob was pouring oil over that rock, maybe in his heart he was acknowledging that what is in the Anointed Himself, even the Lord our risen Head, will flow down and fill His Body, causing them to house the Lord Himself.

Hebrews says that she is sanctified because she is one with the Lord. Through oneness all that is in Him can flow into her, His Bride and Body. Oil is used to represent consecration and separation unto the Lord. Even as the Father has exalted and anointed His Christ above all, He has also made Him to be the Head of His Body so that through virtue of union all that is in Him can flow into us (*Heb. 2:11, 10:10-14*).

Although we may look at the Body of Christ and see very little appearance of His life, when we see the risen Lord by revelation, we will know His Body is one with Him, that they are alive because they are the body of Him who is raised. And so we can choose to know one another after the flesh or in Christ. Just like Jacob and his rock-pillow, we can fall asleep on it, leave it lying there, throw a stone at it, or pour oil on it...it's our choice!

Certainly how we choose might be determined by our spiritual condition at the time! If our eyes have been opened to see one another from God's point of view we might not be so quick to condemn what looks lifeless at the time. Maybe a little oil flowing down from the Head might prime the pump and bring forth the good and pleasant condition of brethren dwelling together in unity (*Ps. 133:1*)!

Rather than calling it a stony heart we can call it a well of living waters. Rather than viewing it as separate, earthly and cut off from the land of the living, we will call it one with the risen Head and pour oil on it. As His Body we can allow the oils to flow down and cover and fill us and allow the waters to gush up and pour forth from deep within. We are not as we would seem when we see only by our carnal eye, for truly this is the house of God and God is here. May we awaken more and more to our true identity as one with the risen Son. May that reality continue to fill our eyes and flow into the earthen regions of our hearts and understandings until they are renewed and transformed into His image.

Jacob's awakening caused him to speak forth, "God is in this place and I knew it not." His words seem to cry out, "I was asleep to God's glorious reality and union so that what was alive seemed dead and lifeless to me. Now that I have awakened from my slumber and had my eyes opened to see I can properly respond to the Lord and His Body."

Jacob's face was set towards Haran and his obedience was sure, but before his eyes were opened he was yet walking as a man with his eyes closed! God knew it was going to take more than a willing heart and clear instructions for this thing to really happen. Jacob needed to see what was going on in the spirit so he could flow with God in His purposes. And so God opened His heavens to Jacob, and insodoing awakens him to His eternal plan.

Beautiful Eyes

Before Jacob was aroused from his slumber by the Lord, the eyes of the Lord Himself saw Jacob in this unawakened condition. How merciful of the Lord to not allow him to remain asleep to God's glorious reality. God could have so easily allowed His relationship with Jacob to remain on the level of mere understanding. But it seems that God had something in His heart much more all-encompassing than mere religious obedience. He wanted a house that was caught up in Him and filled with His glory. God wanted this man to be with Him as One in His viewpoint, caught up in His place, and flowing forth with His life. It is wonderful to have a message that is truly from God, but how much more awesome to be a messenger with wings that comes out from God bearing His glory and ministering by His life (*Rev. 21:9*)!

There's A Well In That Rock!

"And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth." (Gen. 29:2)

As we proceed on, the next thing the scriptures mention Jacob seeing is a well in the field of Rebekah's family, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, and (here comes another stone) a great stone upon the mouth of the well.