

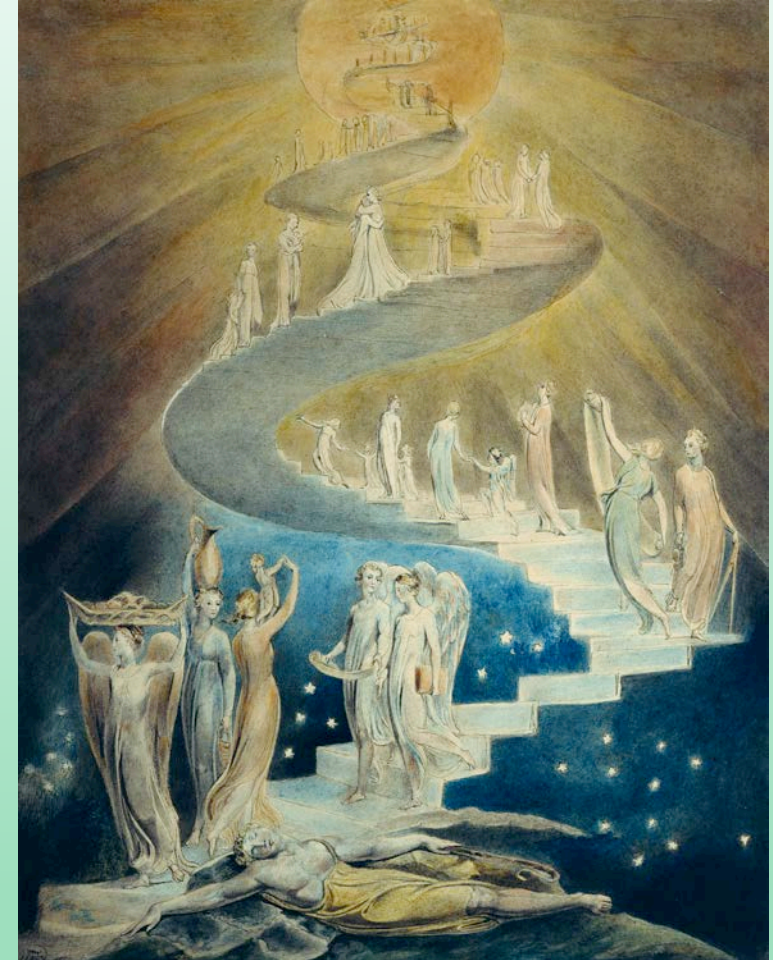
# Global Rebellion and the Patriarchs

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Genesis 28: 15

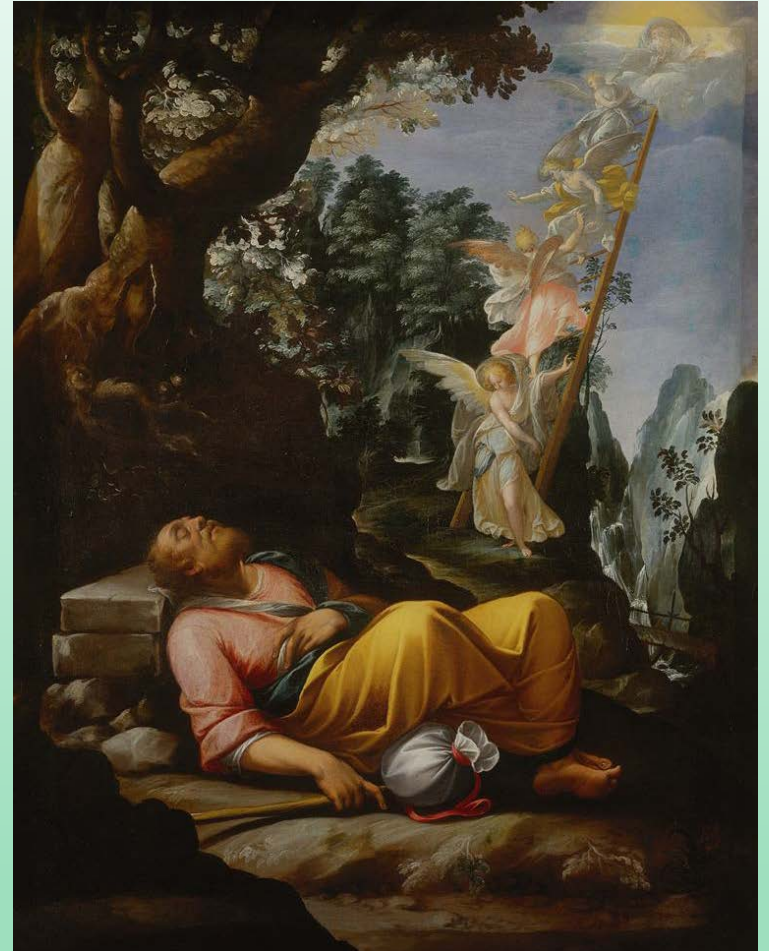


"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you"  
Genesis 28: 15

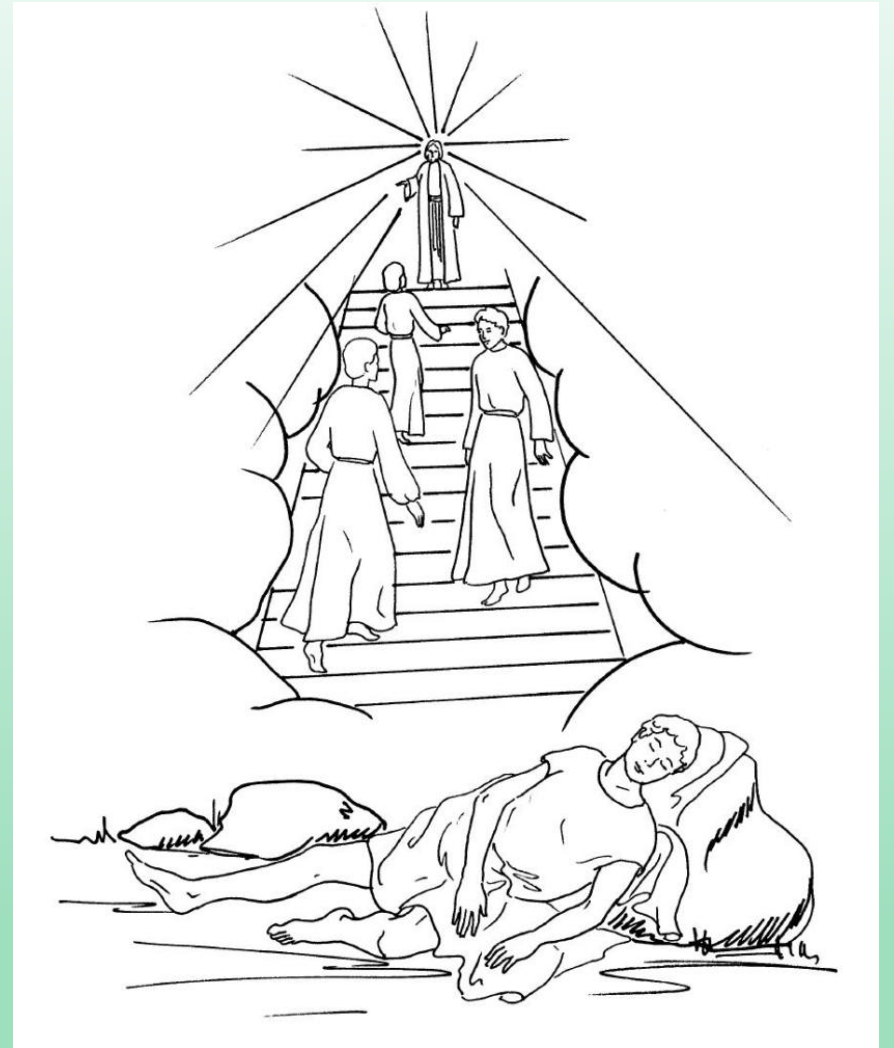


# I. Introduction

Jacob's dream was a wonderful way God used to encourage Jacob and to give him confidence and peace. This was one of the most solemn moments in his life, the beginning of a personal covenant that became reference for his entire life.



"Jacob had no doubt heard about the great God who appeared to Abraham and to Isaac, but now this same God has a personal encounter with Jacob himself. This was a life-changing experience for him. God gave to Jacob the same kind of promise found in Philippians 1:6: 'Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.' God won't let us go until His work is complete in us."  
David Guzik



“It’s ironic that Jacob didn’t believe in Joseph’s dream when he had one himself. His dream was prophetic and would later come true. If the dream or vision come true and if they completely agree with biblical doctrine, they indeed may be from God. We cannot put God in a box but neither can we build doctrine or have new beliefs that are of human origin that come from visions or dreams and have as their source, human beings. If anyone has a vision or dream and it doesn’t square up with what the Bible says, you can be certain that it is not from God. It is either random or it is from the Enemy.” Jack Wellman



“Jacob’s ladder symbolizes God's communication with men and women, since the Hebrew word for angel actually means messenger. In Jacob's dream, God stands at the top of the ladder and repeats the covenant promises made to Abraham and Isaac regarding a homeland for their descendants. The dream is a message. The entire dream symbolizes God's awesomeness, His control, and His faithfulness.”  
John Calahan



“God fulfilled Jacob’s wishes, even before Jacob expressed them. Jacob prayed after the vision, ‘If God will be with me’, but during the vision God had already assured him by stating, ‘I will be with you.’ Thus, before we ask something, we have certitude that God knows our needs and is ready to satisfy everything that we ask.”  
(DS)



“The design of Jacob’s vision was to afford comfort, encouragement, and confidence to the lonely fugitive, both in his present circumstances and as to his future prospects. His thoughts during the day must have been painful — he would be his own self-accuser that he had brought exile and privation upon himself — and above all, that though he had obtained the forgiveness of his father, he had much reason to fear lest God might have forsaken him. Solitude affords time for reflection; and it was now that God began to bring Jacob under a course of religious instruction and training. To dispel his fears and allay the inward tumult of his mind, nothing was better fitted than the vision of the gigantic ladder, which reached from himself to heaven, and on which the angels were continually ascending and descending from God Himself on their benevolent errands (Joh 1:51).”  
Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary

"The Lord may lead you to a place of desolation to preserve your holiness, purity, and sanctification for His eternal purposes. You may need to come away by your own choice or by circumstances out of your control. No matter the reason for your move, the Lord is ultimately in control of your life and He will lead you to the right paths when you surrender to Him."  
Crystal MacDowell



“It is not sufficient to know the story of Jacob’s ladder. It is important to have a personal encounter with the living God. While walking with Him, God’s child will understand the heavenly plan for his life. Thus, wherever he is, by choice or by circumstances, a growing certitude will fill his mind that he is near to God. Jacob’s ladder becomes his own ladder. His face to face experience with the Creator of the Universe builds the assurance to come ‘boldly to the throne of grace’.” (DS)



## II. Context



The entire story of Jacob's exile is well organized. It confirms that God had His plan prepared well in advance for the well-being of Jacob. The fleeing of the young Jacob became the blessing with the foundation of a new family under God's blessing. After a long period of time, Jacob returned home with wives, children and his wealth.



## The Structure of Genesis 28: 5 – 37: 1

# JACOB'S EXILE

A	28: 5	Jacob's Exile begins
B	28: 6 – 9	Esau's Family
C	28: 10 – 22	Stop at Bethel
D	29: 1 - 30	Departure from Canaan and Arrival at Paddan-Aram
E	29: 31 – 30: 24	Jacob's Family becomes large
F	30: 25 - 43	Jacob's Scheming
G	31: 1 - 55	Yahweh enables Jacob to escape and depart for home
F'	32: 1 - 32	Jacob's Scheming
E'	33: 1 - 17	Jacob introduces his large family to Esau
D'	33: 18 – 34: 31	Arrival Back in Canaan from Paddan-Aram
C'	35: 1 – 29	Stop at Bethel
B'	36: 1 - 43	Esau's family
A'	37: 1	Jacob's Exile ends

# The Structure of Genesis 28: 10 – 22

## GOD'S MESSAGE TO JACOB

1

Affirming Jacob's Roots  
(I'm God of your fathers)

2

The Land is the Gift of God  
(The land on which you lie, I will give to you and your children)

3

The Future of Jacob is brilliant  
(I will multiply your descendance)

4

Jacob's Impact will grow  
(You shall spread abroad...)

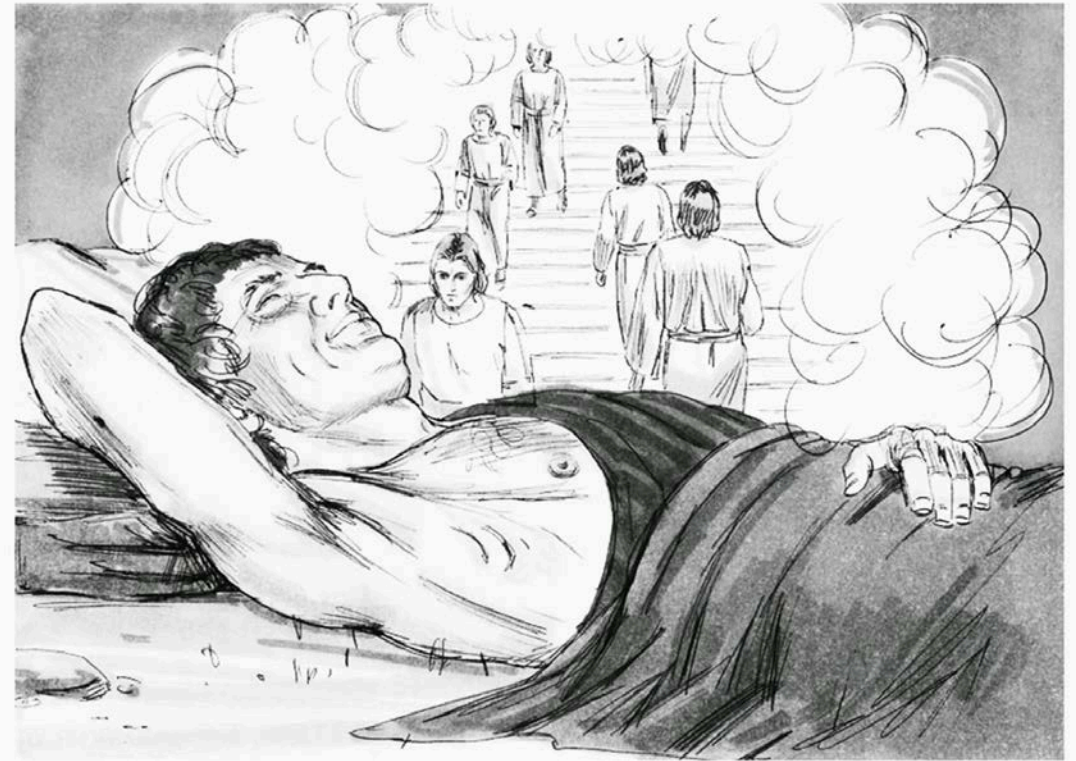
5

Source of Blessing  
(and in your seed all the families will be blessed)

BLESSING

Constant Presence  
Omnipresent Protection  
Guarantee for the safe Return  
All the promises will be fulfilled

III. The dream of Jacob allows us to understand God's care for His children and faithfulness to His plan of salvation



# 1. The Certitude of God's Presence

"Behold, I am with you"

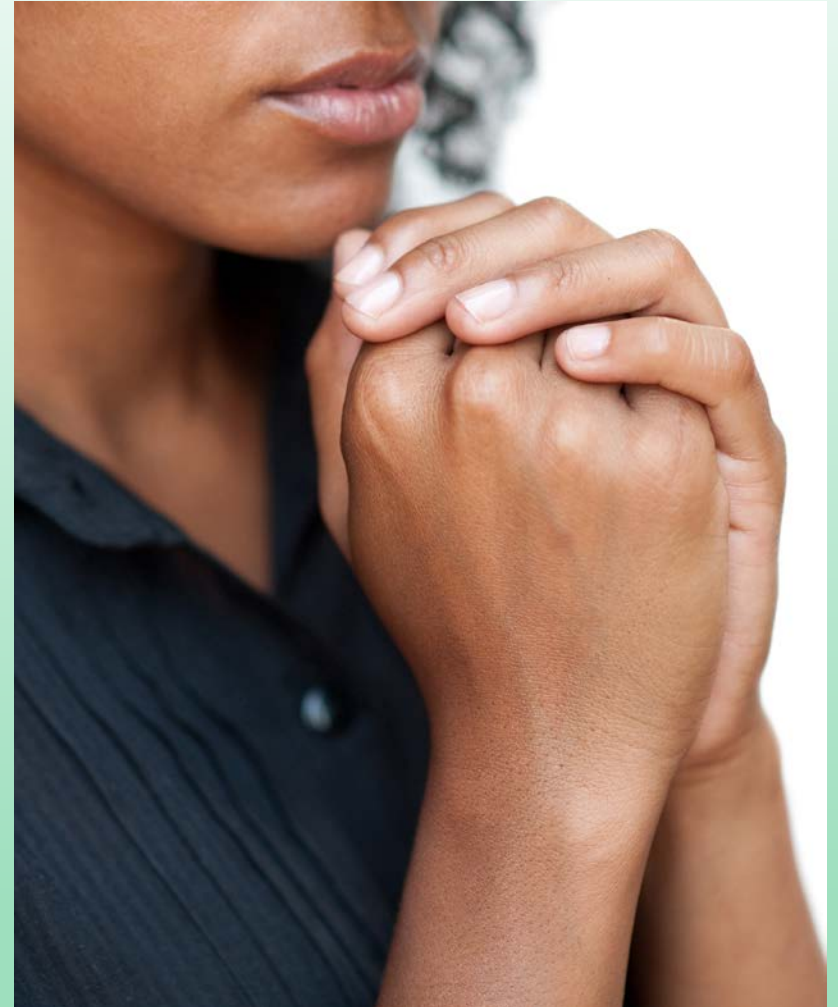


“God, who is everywhere, never leaves us. Yet He seems sometimes to be present, sometimes to be absent. If we do not know Him well, we do not realize that He may be more present to us when He is absent than when He is present.”  
Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island

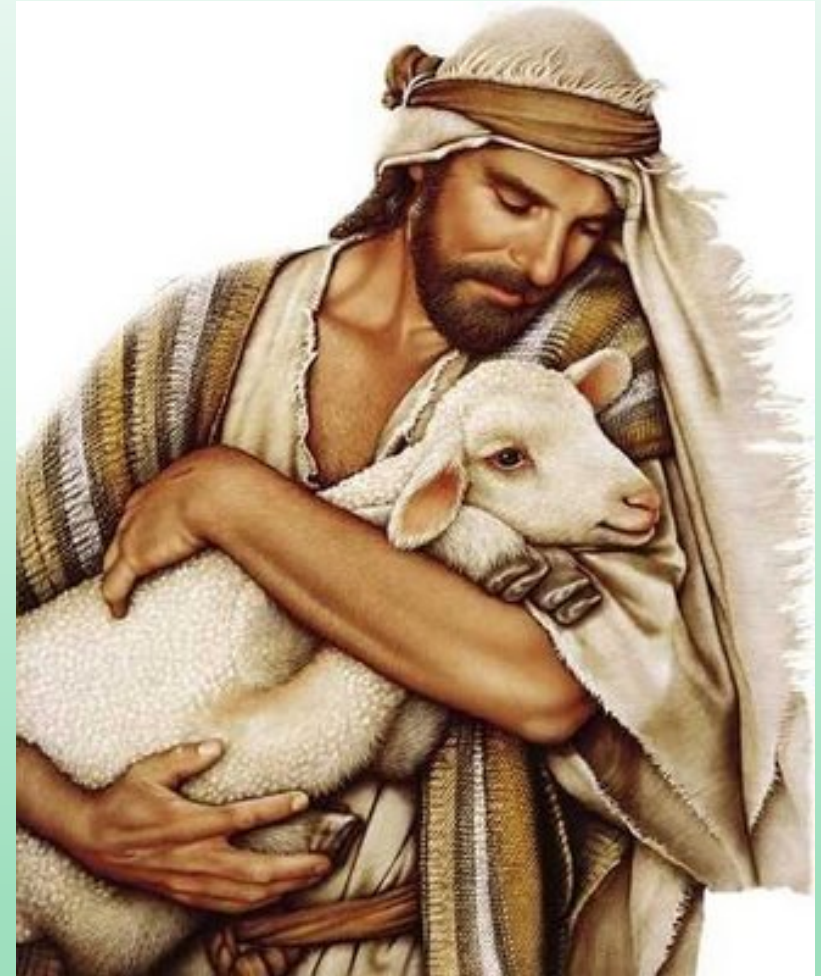


“I want the presence of God Himself,  
or I don't want anything at all to do with  
religion. You would never get me  
interested in the old maids' social club  
with a little bit of Christianity thrown in to  
give it respectability. I want all that God  
has, or I don't want any.”

A. W. Tozer, The Counselor



"I could not handle the presence of suffering without the certitude of God's presence. His proximity gives me hope. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me."  
(DS)



2. Our route is safe  
when we walk with God  
“And will keep you wherever you go”



“Where does your security lie?  
Is God your refuge, your hiding  
place, your stronghold, your  
shepherd, your counselor, your  
friend, your redeemer, your  
saviour, your guide? If He is,  
you don't need to search any  
further for security.”

Elisabeth Elliot



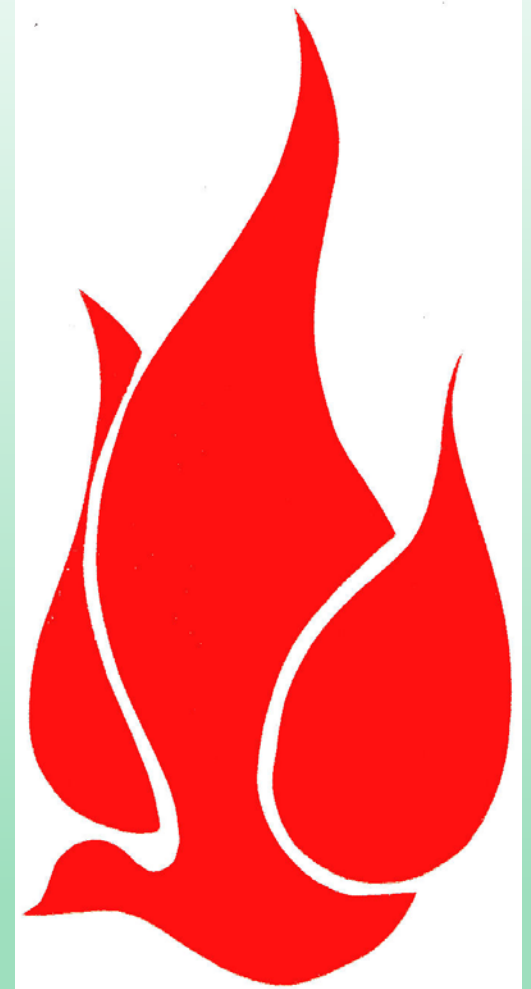
"I believe God, through His Spirit, grants us love, joy, and peace no matter what is happening in our lives. As Christians, we shouldn't expect our joy to always feel like happiness, but instead recognize joy as inner security – a safeness in our life with Christ."

Jill Briscoe



"The Lord shall prevent the evil you fear, and sanctify, remove, or lighten the evil you feel. He will preserve the soul, that it be not defiled by sin, and disturbed by affliction. He will keep you in life and death; going out to your labour in the morning of your days, and coming home to your rest when the evening of old age calls you in. It is a protection for life. The Spirit, who is their Preserver and Comforter, shall abide with them for ever."

Matthew Henry



### 3. God confirms the gift of the land to Jacob and his descendants

“And will bring you back  
to this land”



“The Lord knew the evil influences that would surround Jacob, and the perils to which he would be exposed. In mercy He opened up the future before the repentant fugitive, that he might understand the divine purpose with reference to himself, and be prepared to resist the temptations that would surely come to him when alone amid idolaters and scheming men. There would be ever before him the high standard at which he must aim; and the knowledge that through him the purpose of God was reaching its accomplishment, would constantly prompt him to faithfulness.”  
Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 184.

“The land was not holy at the time of Terah or even at the time of the Patriarchs. It was sanctified by the people when they entered the land under the leadership of Joshua... We do not worship the soil. The land of Israel without the God of Israel will be here today and gone tomorrow.”  
Abraham Heschel



“Canaan became the focus of God’s redemptive and reigning activity on the earth. This explains why the patriarchs and their Israelite descendants hallowed the land and valued it as a theological sine qua non. The patriarchal desire to be buried in the Holy Land also attests to its special association with the dwelling place of Yahweh. The biblical witness is that Israel is inconceivable without land, whether in Historical or eschatological times.”

Roy B. Zuck, *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, p. 29.



#### 4. God will do everything possible to fulfill His initial plan for His children

"For I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you"



"The Divine Providence will bring Jacob back to his home. "For I will not leave you until I have done that which I have spoken to thee," signifies that nothing would be wanting to prevent its having effect."  
E. Swedenborg (1688-1772).



“In God’s words Jacob found:  
1. The gift of divine friendship.  
He was lonely and alone.  
2. The grace of divine forgiveness. The guilt in his life is heavier than the stone on which his head rests.  
3. The goal of a divine purpose. He received the same covenantal promises made to Abraham, and is thus a link in God’s chain.”  
Victor P. Hamilton, Handbook on the Pentateuch, p. 122.



“God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer



# V. Conclusion



"The Bible is not promising the absence of pain or even failure. It is promising that, amidst seas of adversity, the elect will remain upheld, not because of their own doing, but because of the preserving hand of God. No one can snatch God's sheep out of his hand (John 10:27–30), and the one who has justified will never again condemn (Romans 8:33–34). What mercy! What promise! The sure confidence we have today that we will remain with God tomorrow is God himself. Thank him. Remain dependent on him. Plead for his sustaining grace."

John Piper

“According to Moses Maimonides (Guide of the Perplexed), the purpose of the ladder is to explain the relationship between two realities, between existence on earth and existence in the "world of heavenly spheres," both of which are set in motion by God. Jacob sees "angels of God" on the ladder. It says "going up and down"; first they ascend and become inspired, then they descend and transmit the understanding they acquired to the world.”

Mina Fouad Tawfike, Commentary on Genesis 28: 10 - 22

“In this vision the plan of redemption was presented to Jacob in such parts as were essential to him at that time. The mystic ladder revealed in his dream was the same to which Christ referred in His conversation with Nathanael: “Ye shall see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” (John 1:51). The sin of Adam and Eve separated earth from heaven, so that man could not have communion with his Maker. Yet the world was not left in hopelessness. The ladder represents Jesus, the appointed medium of communication. Christ connects man in his weakness and helplessness with the source of infinite power.

All this was revealed to Jacob in his dream. Although his mind at once grasped a part of the revelation, its great and mysterious truths were the study of his lifetime and unfolded to his understanding more and more.”

Ellen G. White, From Eternity Past, p. 120.

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Genesis 28: 15

