

The **presence** of God is the **point** ...

- *Of the Bible*
- *Of Christianity*
- *Of life*

### **Psalm 8:1, 4**

O Lord, our Lord, how **majestic** is Your Name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens ... 4 what is man that you are **mindful** of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

### **Genesis 28:10**

**Jacob** left Beersheba and went toward Haran.

### **Genesis 28:11**

And he came to a certain place and stayed there that **night**, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place **to sleep**.

### **Genesis 28:12**

And he **dreamed**, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it **reached to heaven**. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

### **The Pattern:**

- **Jacob: a person like us**
- **God makes the first move.**
  - **Why when Jacob is sleeping?**
- **There is a reality for us to recognize**
  - **God is here!**

### **Genesis 28:13-16**

And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "**I am the Lord**, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup>Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup>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 **promised** you."

### **The Encounter:**

- **Disruptive** because God's presence becomes **personal**

There is a distinction between the **omnipresence** of God and the **manifest presence** of God.

There is a difference between knowing **about God** and **knowing God**.

#### More Details on God's Manifest Presence:

- Is often 'mediated'

#### More Details on God's Manifest Presence:

- Is often 'mediated'
- His Spirit (Personality) can interact with our spirit
- His Words are spirit and life

#### **Genesis 28:16**

Then **Jacob awoke** from his sleep and said, "**Surely** the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."

#### **Genesis 28:17**

And he was **afraid** and said, "How **awesome** is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

#### **Genesis 28:18-19**

So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured **oil** on the top of it. <sup>19</sup>He called the name of that place **Bethel**, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

#### **Genesis 28:20-22**

Then Jacob made **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 clothing to wear, <sup>21</sup>so that I come again to my father's house in peace, **then the Lord shall be my God**, <sup>22</sup>and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, **shall be** God's house. And of **all** that **You give me** I will give **a full tenth** to you."

God **comes** to us but does not **adjust** to us. → Spiritual **responsiveness**

#### **2 Adjustments:**

- There are **no** places where God is **not**
  - *Secular & Sacred; Public & Private*
  - *Savior & Lord*

- Away from **ignorance or indifference** to God's presence

From this point forward God and His presence is going to be a factor in Jacob's life.

- Jacob's Journey: not a factor → a factor → THE factor

**The Practice of Spiritual Responsiveness:**

- There must be **recognition**
- There must be **consecration**
- There must be **commitment** ... Even if imperfect
- There must be a **sense**: we can never **outrun** God nor **outdo** His goodness.

Do we see God's commitment to us?

Where might we be asleep?

What area(s) of our life do we need to declare a "Bethel"?

Will you let God's goodness prompt you to be a giver?