

Jacob's ladder

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Gray

Introduction

1. Genesis 28:12; John 1:43-51
2. Jacob was on his way to Haran, his mother's people, to find a suitable wife. He was resting in what became known as Bethel (28:19)
3. This dream seems insignificant until one reads John 1:51. Jesus is talking with Nathanael and makes reference to this historical event.
4. There are several important truths implied in Jacob's dream and Christ's allusion to it.
5. We live in a world defined by divides—social, political, and generational.
6. But the greatest divide humanity has ever faced is the infinite gap between a Holy God and broken people.
7. Historically, humanity has tried to build its own bridges to the divine through religion, morality, and achievements. Tower of Babel Genesis 11
8. But in John 1, we find that God did not wait for us to climb up to Him; He came down to us.
9. Let us study these truths today.

II Discussion

1. There is a vast chasm between heaven and hell
 - a. Caused by man's sin Isaiah 59:1-2
 - b. Jesus made reference to this divide in Luke 16:26
 - c. This chasm does not have to remain. James 4:7-8
 - i. How do we draw nigh to God?
 - ii. By cleansing! By having our sins washed away, sins that separates us from God. 1 Peter 1:22; Acts 22:16
2. Christ is the only access to heaven
 - a. Come and see John 1:46 notice what Nathanael said, can any good thing come out of Nazareth, come and see
 - b. Our job as the church isn't to win arguments; it's to invite broken, skeptical people into an encounter with a living Savior.
 - c. He reaffirms this latter in John 14:6
 - d. Without Him there is no hope of entrance. Acts 4:12; Romans 8:24
 - e. It is a new and living way Hebrews 10:19-20
3. There is two way movement on the ladder
 - a. Jesus is the divine means of communication from Heaven to earth Hebrews 1:1; 2:3; John 14:13
 - b. He came to declare the Father's will John 1:18
 - i. Apostles would then be guided into all truth John 16:13
 - ii. We have it written down for us. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13
 - c. He operates on our behalf as high priest mediating our case to God. Hebrews 4:14-15; 5:5; 9:7, 22-24; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1

III Conclusion

1. Man has tried to claw his way back to God. See the tower of Babel Genesis 11:4

2. Because Jesus came and died and was resurrected, we can now have access to heaven
3. If you are seeking, let Jesus fix your problems, come and see, believe, repent, confess and have your sins washed away
4. If you are a believer, return to the one who has given us the way into heaven
5. Invite others to come and see
6. Come Now

Source: Notes from the Margin of My Bible by Wayne Jackson: On line Google asked about sermon on John 1 Jacob's ladder