

Sermon Notes and Home Group Guidance
Week following 8 May: Genesis 27:41-28:22
A vision of Christ

Introduction: On the run from Esau's murderous rage, Jacob stops for the night. God speaks to him through a dream, reaffirming the covenant given to his grandfather.

Read Genesis 27:41-28:22, then answer the following questions:

To clarify understanding

- a. (28:12) ***"He had a dream..."*** God often spoke through dreams in the OT but in the NT there are no recorded instances after [Matthew 2:19](#). Why do you think this is?
- b. (v28:13-15) God reaffirmed the promise that was given to Isaac and Abraham. What part of the promise was the original covenant and what part was specific to Jacob?

To encourage honest response

- a. How has God spoken to you through this text and sermon? What questions does it raise in your mind?
- b. (28:11) ***"When he reached a certain place"*** We too have reached a 'certain place'. The darkest days of the pandemic lie behind us, but we have yet to reach the sunlit post-pandemic uplands. We no longer say 'when everything is back to normal...': our world has changed. How has God been speaking to you in this 'certain'/uncertain place?
- c. (28:12) ***"He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven ..."*** Read [John 1:51](#), [10:9](#), and [14:6](#). Jacob's prophetic dream is fulfilled in Jesus, the bridge between God and man. In what ways do Christians try to climb to heaven on a "ladder" of their own making rather than the ladder of Jesus?
- d. (28:13) ***"I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac...."*** Jacob knew of God from his father and grandfather. Now he too meets Him. Why is it that so many raised in Christian families only come to Christ after leaving home?
- e. (28:16) ***"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."*** What stops us from being more aware of God's presence? What might we do to cultivate a continual awareness of God's presence in our lives?
- f. (28:16) ***"Remember, always, that in history, however dreadful may seem the circumstances of the narrative, surely God is in that place."*** (C.H. Spurgeon) How would you respond to someone who asked "where is God in Ukraine right now?"

Prayer

- a. Thank God for the ladder he provides through Christ.
- b. Pray for those for whom you would love to see 'heaven opened', who do not yet know the Lord.