

Genesis

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Repent! Admit the things that you have been doing wrong and turn from them to do what is right instead.

Ask Christ to Enable You to Live According to His Word! He delights in helping us to stop sinning and start obeying Him. So ask for His help.

Encourage Others to Turn to Christ too! As you see others rebelling against God, don't just look down on them; share with them that you have the same problem. Let them know that Christ is making a difference in your life and He can in their lives too.

The Life of Faith—Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of *Hebrews* was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
June 16th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 28: 1 – 22

Stairway to Heaven

1. God Extends His Promise to Jacob.
2. How Can That Possibly Be?
3. Jesus Is the Stairway to Heaven.

Jacob runs away from his brother who wants to kill him for being a lying, stealing cheat. Alone and afraid Jacob encounters the God of the Universe who promises Him blessings beyond imagining. The promise is pictured as a *stairway descending from God Himself* to bridge the chasm between heaven and earth. Jesus uses this same image to describe *His unique ministry as the Son of Man*.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 6: 4 – 7: 3

Anchor for the Soul

1. To What Are We Being Anchored?
2. Why Is There a Warning Attached to This?
3. God's Faithfulness Is Made Explicit.
4. What Difference Does This Make?

God's promise of salvation, redemption, rest, heaven, and life eternally in His family are found in Christ and His work on the cross. He has sworn by Himself so that with this anchor we can be free to love Him and the people He has placed around us, to know, and take courage in security as we follow Him.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Have you ever felt utterly alone? Running for his life, Jacob encountered God and received a promise of God's eternal presence with Him. He would literally never be alone, forsaken, or in danger. God Himself would be with him always! We have this same promise in Jesus. This week let us draw near to the One who never leaves us.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 28:1-22; John 1:48-51** (below). DISCUSS, What is the significance of the Stairway to Heaven? How does Jesus fulfill this promise? PRAY thanking God for His sure and certain promises in Christ.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 6:4-7:3**. DISCUSS, How does this anchor for the soul comfort and strengthen you? Why? PRAISE Christ for being the Lord of our sure anchor.

Monday

READ **Genesis 28:1-5**. DISCUSS, Why does Isaac change regarding Jacob? How does his additional blessing of Jacob demonstrate his faith in God? How does that relate to what God has said? PRAY for God to help us turn to Christ in our need. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Show them Christ's grace lavished upon you. PRAY for Christ's comfort for our neighbors.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 28:6-9**. DISCUSS, How is Esau's additional marriage too little, too late? Are there ways that you (we) miss God's clear commands like Esau? How can we guard against it? PRAY, "Lord, we like Jacob don't deserve Your blessing. We stand amazed at Your generosity and mercy with us. Help us to understand Your commands as part of Your blessing that we might seek to obey You."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 28:10-15; John 1:43-51**. DISCUSS, What does God promise Jacob? Why? PRAY, Ask God to radically transform your trust in His promise so that no one could mistake the fact that you are relying on Christ as your only hope.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 28:16-22**. DISCUSS, How did Jacob respond to God's promise? Why is this significant? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for Your incredible promise. Teach us to trust You no matter what we experience or fear."

Friday

READ **Genesis 28:1-22**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning from this passage this week? PRAY, Lord thank You for being present with us. Thank You for Your promise to never leave or forsake us.

Saturday, 6/22

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **First Kings 19:1-18; Genesis 29:1-35**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Please pray for *Donnelly and Lucy's wedding* and the Warren family.

John 1: 48 – 51

Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."