

Genesis 28:1-22

Gateway to Heaven

Introduction:

Every religion of the world has some sort of gateway to heaven. The means of entering through the gate depends upon the individual accumulation of good deeds. The central doctrines of Christianity do not teach that the gateway to heaven is through the deeds of the individual. The premise of Christianity is men are sinners who have transgressed God's holy law and deserving of condemnation. The only way to escape the judgment to come is to rely on the deeds and perfect righteousness of Christ, who has become the believers substitute by becoming perfect sacrifice for believers. Therefore the gateway to heaven is extremely narrow few that find it. It is entirely exclusive and absolutely no exceptions will be allowed by God the Father who has provided one only way to heaven's eternal life. That is, through His only beloved Son, Jesus Christ. (Matt. 7:13, 14)

I. Solitary Journey

A. Leaving home – (Spurgeon)

1. Jacob leaves home with fears of travel – Psalm 139:7-12
2. Jacob must find a godly wife
3. Jacob's divine election – Rom. 9:11; Eph. 1:9,11

II. Heaven Open

A. Bethel – the house of God – Gen. 12:8

1. Jacob saw angels ascending and descending – II Kings 6:15-18; Heb. 13:2;12:22
2. Jacob saw and heard glorious things – v.17 (awesome place) Psalm 66:3; 99:3; 119:9
3. Jacob's first of seven additional revelations – (Gen. 31:11-13; 32:1,2; 32:24-30; 35:1, 9-13; 46:1-4; II Tim. 3:15,16
4. Jacob's cure for loneliness:
 - a. Marriage – Gen. 2:18
 - b. The Presence of God – 28:15; (Heb. "with "Shamar means "to keep, preserve, and guard") – Matt. 28:20; Note. V. 22; Heb. 7:3 (Gen. 13:2; 26:12,13; Rom. 8:17

B. The Prophetic nature of Genesis 28

1. Nathanael skeptical of Nazareth – Turn To: John 1:43-51
2. Jesus brings Nathanael's mind to the book of Genesis 28; Matt. 16:27
3. The ladder to heaven is Jesus Himself – John 14:6