

Bible/College Class Notes – God’s Great Plans – Lesson 31

God’s Wonderful Plan of Grace.

This week we learn how God ‘met’ Jacob and showed him His Wonderful Plan of Grace.

David wrote: “O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me ... whither shall I go from thy spirit (presence)”. Psalm 139v1 and v7.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Genesis 27v30-46 (Esau plans to kill Jacob)	
Monday	Genesis 28v1-9 (Jacob & Esau are different)	
Tuesday	Genesis 28v10-22 (God speaks to Jacob)	
Wednesday	Genesis 29v1-21 (Laban’s deceit)	
Thursday	Genesis 29v22-35 (Jacob finally marries Rachel)	
Friday	Psalm 73v1-28 (God’s mercy to sinners who repent)	
Saturday	John 1v51, John 14v6, Psalm 46 (The right way to God)	

Important Lesson for us today: *We frequently hear the call to ‘Repent of our sin and come to the Saviour’, but there is so much ‘noise’ around us, distracting us, that we ignore it. We may think, ‘Our sin is not that bad, we are as good as anyone else; surely, God is a God of love, and He will not punish us’. We need to take ourselves to a quiet spot, and prayerfully examine our hearts, recognising that we are sinners who deserve the wrath of our Holy, Creator God. Seek, in prayer, the help of The Holy Spirit to change our hearts so that we can repent, trust, and believe in Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and know His forgiveness and love. He is the ONLY Way into Heaven for us. John 14v6.*

Hymn 387 speaking of the meaning of the ladder in Jacob’s dream – the way to Heaven:

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| <p>1. Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand—
The shadow of a mighty Rock,
Within a weary land:
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.</p> | <p>2. O safe and happy shelter,
O refuge tried and sweet,
O trysting-place—where Heaven’s love
And Heaven’s justice meet!
As to the holy patriarch (Jacob)
That wondrous dream was given,
So seems my Saviour’s cross to me,
A ladder up to Heaven.</p> |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

God Shows Jacob The Only Way To Heaven.

● Background to Today’s Lesson.

- God had declared that Jacob would receive the blessing in preference to Esau.
- Rebekah’s lack of faith caused her to sin by planning to deceive aged Isaac into blessing Jacob instead of Esau. **Although this was God’s plan, it was not His way. Gen 25v23.**

● Jacob Agreed to this Deception – Tragic Consequences Followed.

- Ambition, selfishness, and greed ruled Jacob’s heart. He knew he had no excuse.
- Esau, with hatred in his heart, threatened to kill him. Jacob was very afraid. **Gen 27v41.**
- Jacob is sent away to Haran for his safety. Sadly, Rebekah died before he returned.

● God Meets Jacob at Night in a Dream.

- Jacob - lonely, cold, and very sad, lay down to sleep with only stones for a pillow.
- God gave him a wonderful dream – a ladder reaching from Earth to Heaven with Angels ascending, and descending - delivering messages, and encouragements. **Gen 28v12.**
- Then God spoke - giving Jacob the same promises He had given to Abraham, and Isaac – All this land, a great number of descendants, and a Saviour to come. **Gen 28v13-15.**
- God also promised to go with him, to keep him safe, and bring him back home again.

● What Did God Show Jacob? What Does God Show Us?

- Jacob understood and believed that God had made a way into Heaven for sinners like him - through his ‘seed’, Jesus Christ, the Saviour, the Promised Messiah. **John 1v51.**
- Often God has to bring us low, away from all distracting comforts, for us to hear Him.
- **Today**, God does **not** speak to anyone audibly, or through dreams, but **only** through His complete and inspired Word, the Bible – and messages preached from it. **2 Timothy 3v16.**
- **The ‘messengers’ on the ladder in Genesis 28v12, are:**
 - 1. The completed Scripture**, God’s Word of Truth, in which He tells us of His Son dying on Calvary to save us from the guilt and punishment of our sin. **John 3v16.**
 - 2. Those who faithfully preach and teach** the Doctrines and the one true Gospel.
- **The ‘ladder’ is a picture of The Cross**, and Christ’s death on it, because it opens to us the **only way** into Heaven - the Saviour, Jesus Christ. He said, **“I am The Way”**. **John 14v6.**

● Jacob’s Response.

- **‘A never-to-be-forgotten experience’**. It would now affect every day of his life.
- **Jacob was converted**. He vowed (promised) to God, **“If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go ... so that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God”**. **Genesis 28v20-21.**

● How Should We Respond To God’s Gracious Call?

- Take the call of the Gospel seriously today - respond in sincere faith, and repentance.
- **‘A never-to-be-forgotten experience’**. Your life will be totally changed, like Jacob’s was, and it should affect every day of your life, from now until eternity.

The Lord Jesus Christ said to Nathanael, (reminding him of Jacob’s dream), “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see (spiritually) heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon (Me) the Son of Man”. **John 1v51.**