

"THE GOD OF BETHEL"**Introduction**

1. From the life of Jacob
2. The new stage of Jacob's life
3. The Identity of the Angel (v.11)
OBSERVE: A wonderful title: "The God of Bethel"!

1. THE GOD OF BETHEL IS THE GOD WHO CONVERTS US

- 1) Bethel is where Jacob met God for himself:
 - (i) before that, his knowledge was formal
 - (ii) after that, he knew God for himself
OBSERVE: This is a vital difference: Job 42:5-6
- 2) Elements of it:
 - (i) a critically important experience
 - (ii) the revelation explained
 - (iii) the vow
 - (iv) Jacob's amazement
OBSERVE: Conversion is amazing
- 3) How often must Jacob have thought back in his life to the experience at Bethel!
 - (i) See Genesis 28:15 – the lifetime promise
 - (ii) See the end of Jacob's life: Genesis 48:16
APPLICATION: Conversion is something you cannot forget. How often we should thank of it and speak of it – like Paul!

2. THE GOD OF BETHEL WATCHES OVER HIS PEOPLE ALL THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE ON EARTH

- 1) Very comforting: See v.12: "I have seen..."
OBSERVE: God sees the hurt men do to us. It is related to the text: "Avenge not yourselves".

- 2) Let us recall Jacob's experiences here:
 - (i) God brought Rachel into his life
 - (ii) He served seven years for her
 - (iii) Laban deceived him with Leah
 - (iv) He served seven years more
 - (v) And six years for sheep and cattle
 - (vi) Laban changed his wages ten times (v.7)
 - 3) How is God so good to this man?
 - (i) Jacob is in favour because saved.
OBSERVE: This favour can be yours.
 - (ii) God heard his vow (TEXT)
 - 4) Questions
 - (i) Why, if God loved Jacob, did he have all those trials (Leah, wages...)
ANSWER: To sanctify him – see Isaiah 48:10
 - (ii) But did Jacob deserve this?
ANSWER: God loves believers, not because, but in spite of what they are.
- 3. THE GOD OF BETHEL WILL GUIDE HIS PEOPLE TO THE VERY END**
- 1) Another comfort is here: "Arise, get thee out of this land".
OBSERVE: God is guiding him home to the land of promise.
 - 2) Life has its changes: childhood – then manhood/womanhood – parenthood perhaps – then retirement – then old age.
OBSERVE: God is the God of Bethel. He will be with us all the way!
 - 3) Look at these promises:
 - (i) Isaiah 43:1-2. **APPLICATION**: God is with us!
 - (ii) Isaiah 43:4: "honourable"!
 - (iii) Isaiah 46:3-4: "to hoar hairs"!
 - (iv) Psalm 92:12-14 "in old age".

CONCLUSION

1. The God of Bethel is always with his people.
 2. He sees our affliction throughout our earthly life.
 3. He is preparing us for glory.
- ILLUSTRATION**: Jacob's deathbed – Genesis 49:18, 33. A good way to go!

PSALM

135: 1 – 6

105: 4 – 8

145²: 19 – 21