

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible. Below it, a planet with a dark, textured surface and a bright horizon line is shown. The background is a dark, starry space. The text "THE BOOK OF GENESIS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "GENESIS" is significantly larger than "THE BOOK OF".

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

JACOB'S LADDER

GENESIS 28

One of the most intriguing questions associated with Genesis and the establishment of God's chosen people, the children of Israel, is how God could bless a person like Jacob and use him for the accomplishment of His divine purposes for mankind.

- Jacob is a stone-cold, scheming liar.
- We must be careful to remember when we defend Jacob that neither we, nor God, condone lying or deception. Yet,
God indeed chose Jacob! 1 Cor. 1:27; Isa. 55:8

JACOB GOING THE RIGHT DIRECTION

- Since Esau's two heathen wives were an aggravation in the home, Rebekah used this as an excuse to discuss Jacob's future with her husband. **Gen. 26:34-35**
- They are now doing what they should have been doing all along—talking and seeking the face of the Lord.
- Now that Jacob had the covenant blessing, it was important that he marry the right woman and not be unequally yoked to a pagan in Canaan just because she was beautiful and available. **2 Cor. 6:14-16**

JACOB HEARS FROM THE LORD v. 10-22

- Jacob starts a journey of faith to the house of God.
- Jacob has a very significant dream.
- God spoke to Jacob in that dream and extended the promises of the Abrahamic covenant to him.
- For God to take the time to personally talk to Jacob in the midst of such angelic activity shows how important Jacob was, above all other men, to God's great plan for the redemption of the human race.

WHAT AN ANGELIC DREAM!

Please note that Jacob did not try to analyze the symbols in this dream. Be very careful about analyzing or spiritualizing every dream you have.

Angels on an angelic ladder come and go constantly

- Angels are normally invisible to human eyes, yet there is “*an innumerable company*” of them. **Heb. 12:22**
- They are mighty beings. **Ps. 103:20**
- They serve as “*ministering spirits.*” **Heb. 1:14**
- They take very special interest in God’s people. **Luke 15:10**

A LINK BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

This ladder could only be built by God Himself.

- This angelic activity of communication and implementation of God's commands is shown to Jacob as he viewed the ladder in his dream.
- In **John 1:51**, Jesus made the tremendous claim and promise referring to Jacob's dream.
- Jesus was claiming that He Himself was Jacob's ladder, the one means by which one could go from earth to heaven—the one way. **John 14:6**

SOME SIGNIFICANT THINGS

- Jacob's significant declaration **v. 13-15**
- Jacob made a significant decision. **v. 16-22**
- Jacob built a significant memorial.
- Jacob repented, but still suffered significantly.
- Significant sin is met by even more significant grace.
- Most significantly, the Lord didn't fail Jacob, nor will He fail us. *"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."* **Ps. 46:7**