

Overflow of His Presence

I. Unexpected Encounters w God

SYMPTOMS of SEPARATION & Hopelessness

Pessimism! ~Tendency to see the worst or expect that the worst will happen, the world falling apart, evil will prevail over good.

Jacob Running for His Life [SLIDE 1 & 2]

Gen. 28:10 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he **dreamed**, and behold, **there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!**

13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. **The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.** 14 Your **offspring shall be like the dust of the earth**, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and **in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

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15 Behold, **I am with you** and **will keep you** wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For **I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.**"

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know¹ it." 17 And he was afraid and

¹ Heb - yada'

said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the **house of God**, and this is the **gate of heaven**."

Since Jacob names the location "Bethel" (v. 19), which means "house of God," the idea of **God's being present on earth is clearly dominant in his thinking**.

UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER

II. The Place Where God Meets Man

A. In All Our Circumstances

1. Desperation

David on the Run

Ps 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd - no lack..

4 Even when I walk through the Valley of the shadow of death
YOU ARE WITH ME.

5 In the presence of my enemies YOU prepare a table, anoint my head, fill my cup.

6 Surely Goodness and Mercy will pursue me. I will DWELL in the **HOUSE of the LORD** forever!

2. Great Accomplishments

SOLOMON and the **TEMPLE**

1Kings 8:27 "But **will God indeed dwell on the earth?** Behold, **heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less** this house that I have built!

B. In Our Humanity

1. The **WORD** Incarnate

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...

1:14 And **the Word** became **flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory *as of the only Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth. ... 16 For **from his fullness we have all received**, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

2. The Dwelling Place of God (Heaven and Earth)

1Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are **God's temple** and that **God's Spirit dwells** in you?

3. The MYSTERY of God within Humanity

Col 1:26 the **mystery hidden for ages** and generations but **now revealed** to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known **how great** among the Gentiles are **the riches of the glory of this mystery**, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.

2:6 Therefore, as you **received** Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in him**, [SLIDE 3] 7 **rooted** and **built up in him** and established in the faith, just as you were taught, **abounding in thanksgiving**. *Overwhelmed with GRATITUDE*

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit... and **not according to Christ**.

9 For **in him** the **whole fullness of deity dwells bodily**, [SLIDE 4] 10 and **you have been filled in him**, who is the head of all rule and authority. [SLIDE 5]

4. Within Our Interactions (Heaven and Earth)

Mt 18: 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, **there am I among² them.**"

² ἐν

• a marker of a condition or state — ‘in, with.’ σπείρεται ἐν φθορᾷ, ἐγείρεται ἐν ἀφθαρσίᾳ ‘it is sown in a state of being mortal, and it rises in a state of being immortal’ 1Cor 15:42

19 Again I say to you, **if two of you agree** on earth about **anything** they ask, **it will be done** for them by my Father in heaven.

18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

III. The IMPACT of HIS PRESENCE

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19 Go** therefore and **make disciples** of **all nations**, **baptizing** them **in the name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20 teaching** them to observe **all that I have commanded** you. **[SLIDE 6]**

And behold, **I am with³ you always**, to the end of the age.”

I AM WITH. YOU ALWAYS!

CONCLUSION

Rom. 15:13 May the God of hope **fill you** with **all joy** and **peace** as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the **power of the Holy Spirit**. **14** I myself am convinced, my brothers, that **you yourselves are full of goodness**, complete in **knowledge** and **competent** to instruct one another.

³ μετὰ; μεθ’

- a position — ‘among, with. τί ζητεῖτε τὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τῶν νεκρῶν; ‘why do you seek the living **among** the dead?’ Lk 24:5.
- a means eg “you will fill me with joy by means of your presence’ Ac 2:28.
- an association eg in the company of, together with.