



CHRIST

In the Old Testament

Jacob's Ladder, Covenant, and Wrestling with God

Genesis 28:10-22; 32:3-30



FAITH BUILDERS



Background

Genesis 25

- Isaac and Rebekah have twin boys, with the Lord revealing that the older will serve the younger
- Esau was born first, followed by Jacob who is holding on to Esau's heel (Jacob's name means "one who takes by the heel")
- Years later, Jacob gets Esau to agree to sell him his birthright in exchange for a meal

Genesis 27

- Isaac is old and sends his oldest son Esau out to hunt and fix him a meal, so that he can bless him before he dies

Background

Genesis 27 (cont'd)

- Rebekah overhears and schemes so that the blessing will go to Jacob
- Jacob then deceives and repeatedly lies to his father in pretending to be Esau
- Isaac gives his blessing to Jacob
- Esau, after finding out that his blessing was stolen, is furious and plans to kill Jacob after Isaac passes
- Rebekah, hearing of Esau's plans, sends Jacob away to Haran and her brother Laban for his own safety, as well as to find a wife

Background

Genesis 28:1-9

- Isaac charges Jacob to find a wife there and offers another blessing to Jacob
- Esau, knowing the daughters of Canaan displease his father, goes and marries a daughter of Ishmael just to spite his father

Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

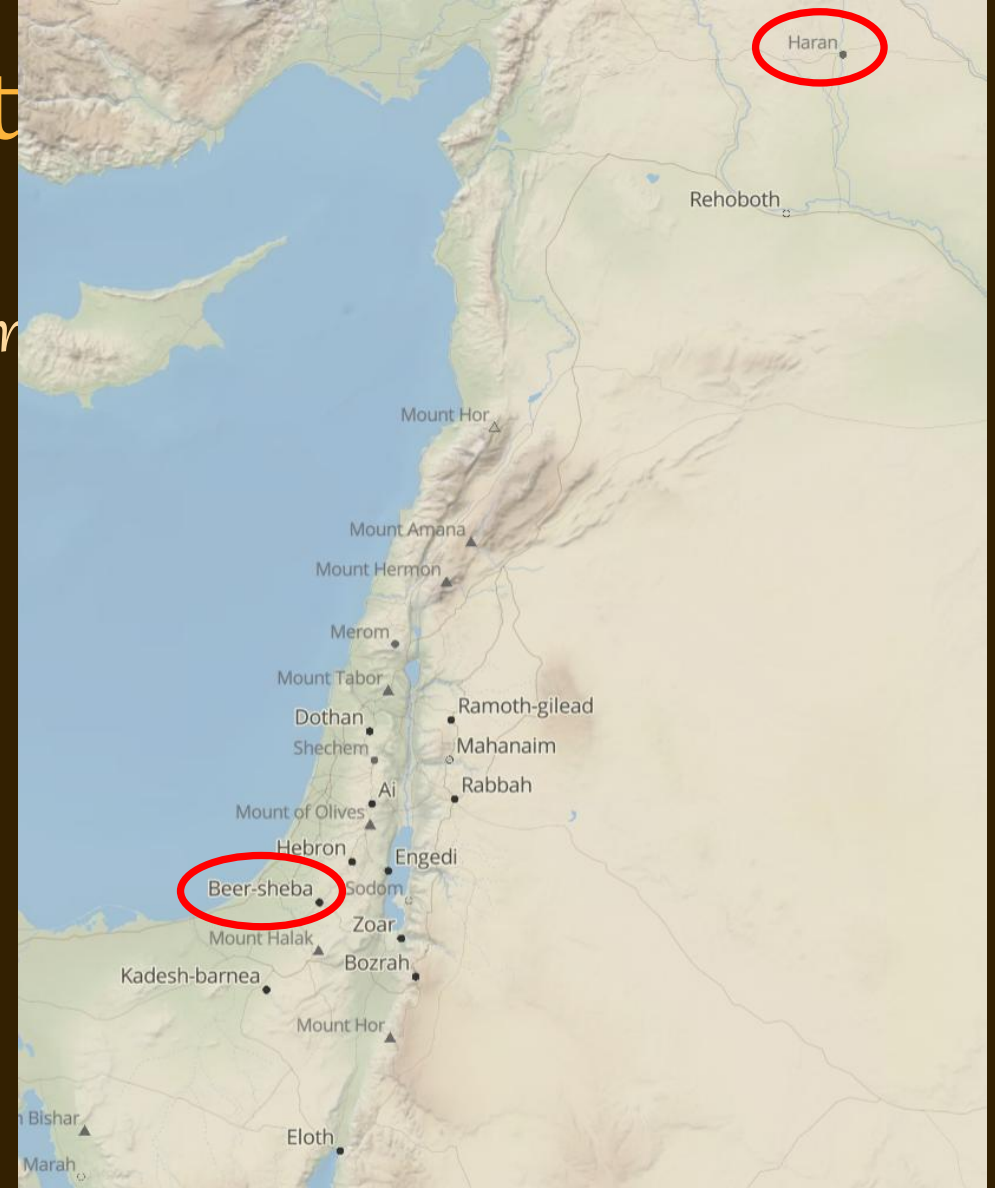
Genesis 28:10-22

One night while traveling God gives Jacob a dream (10-15)

Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

One night while traveling God gives Jacob a dream

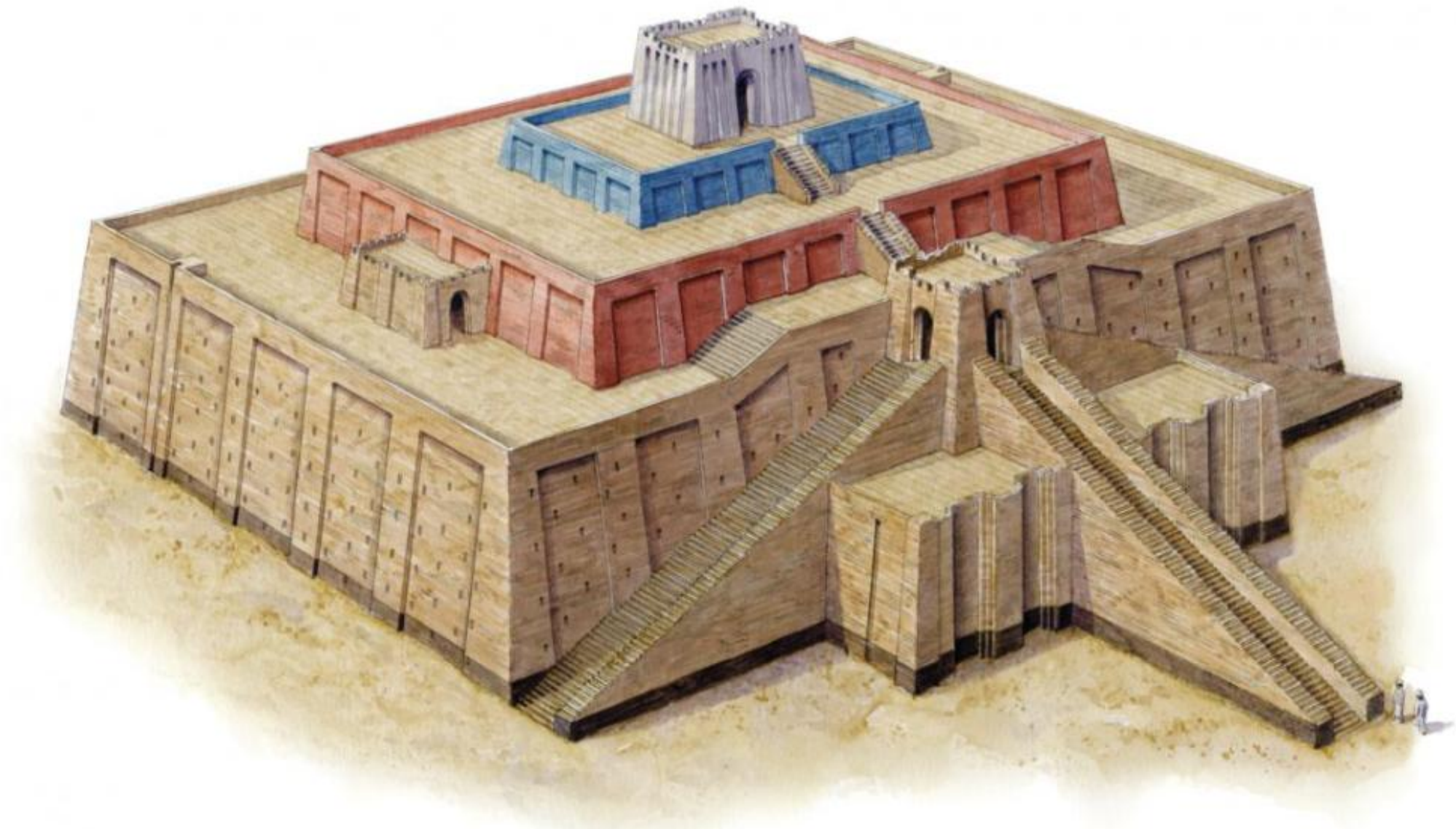


Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

One night while traveling God gives Jacob a dream (10-15)

- *He sees a ladder reaching up to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it
(12)*



Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

One night while traveling God gives Jacob a dream (10-15)

- He sees a ladder reaching up to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it (12)
- God appears and passes down to him the covenant promises of Abraham (13-14)
 - Land (13b)
 - Seed (14a)
 - Blessing (14b)
 - Nation (Gen 35:11)

Genesis 35:11 ¹¹God also said to him (*Jacob*), “I am God Almighty; Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come forth from you.”

Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

One night while traveling God gives Jacob a dream (10-15)

- *He sees a ladder reaching up to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it (12)*
- *God appears and passes down to him the covenant promises of Abraham (13-14)*
- *God promises to always be with him no matter where he goes (15)*

Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

One night while traveling God gives Jacob a dream (10-15)

To mark the significance of the place and event, Jacob ceremonially consecrates the site (16-22)

Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

Reflections as it relates to Christ in the OT

- Jacob's ladder and the opening of access to heaven is a type that anticipates Christ, who opens access permanently

John 1:51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Hebrews 10:19–20 ¹⁹Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

Reflections as it relates to Christ in the OT

- Jacob's ladder and the opening of access to heaven is a type that anticipates Christ, who opens access permanently
- God's promises to Jacob echo those given to Abraham and Isaac – unconditional and all of grace
- God is continuing to narrow in on the genealogy requirements for Messiah, the promised seed, who now will be a descendent of Jacob
- Jesus Christ satisfies this requirement of being a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and now Jacob

Jacob's Ladder and Covenant

Genesis 28:10-22

Reflections as it relates to Christ in the OT

- Jacob's ladder and the opening of access to God who opens access permanently (John 1:9)
- God's promises to Jacob echo those given to Abraham and all of grace
- God is continuing to narrow in on the promised seed, who now will be a descendant of Jacob
- Jesus Christ satisfies this requirement of being a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and now Jacob

Luke 3:23–34 ²³When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli, ²⁴the son of Matthat, ...³⁴the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham...

Interim Events

Genesis 30

- Jacob bears children through Leah, Rachel maid, Leah's maid, and eventually Rachel herself
- God prospers both Laban and Jacob, but Jacob became exceedingly prosperous in devising a plan to increase his flocks

Interim Events

Genesis 31

- Laban's attitude toward Jacob becomes unfriendly and God tells Jacob to return to Canaan
- Jacob and his family and livestock secretly flee for Canaan but later encounter Laban who pursued him
- After an angry exchange between Laban and Jacob, they make a covenant and depart

Jacob Wrestles with God and Is Changed

Genesis 32:3-30

Jacob's anticipated encounter with Esau (3-23)

- *Jacob sends messengers to tell his brother Esau that he has many possessions and seeks his brother's favor (3-5)*
- *The messengers return informing Jacob that Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men (6)*
- *In fear, Jacob divides his people and possessions into two groups in case they are attacked (7-8)*
- *Jacob humbly prays to God for deliverance (9-12)*
- *Jacob sends waves of gifts to Esau in an attempt to appease him (13-21)*
- *Jacob sends his family and belongings across the stream (22-23)*

Jacob Wrestles with God and Is Changed

Genesis 32:3-30

Jacob's anticipated encounter with Esau (3-23)

Jacob's unexpected encounter with God (24-30)

- Being left alone, Jacob wrestles with a man (God) all night long (24)

Hosea 12:3–5 ³In the womb he (*Jacob*) took his brother by the heel, And in his maturity he contended with God. ⁴Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel And there He spoke with us, ⁵Even the Lord, the God of hosts, The Lord is His name.

Jacob Wrestles with God and Is Changed

Genesis 32:3-30

Jacob's anticipated encounter with Esau (3-23)

Jacob's unexpected encounter with God (24-30)

- Being left alone, Jacob wrestles with a man (God) all night long (24)
- The man (God) touches and dislocates Jacob's thigh socket (25)
- Jacob tells the man he will not let him go until he blesses him (26)
- God changes Jacob's name to Israel (27-29a)
- God blesses Jacob (29b-32)

Jacob Wrestles with God and Is Changed

Genesis 32:3-30

Reflections on this event

- Jacob was a sinful character
- A major crisis and the consequences of his own actions greatly humbled him such that he cried out to God
- This Christophany and wrestling event was designed by God to refine and allow Jacob to demonstrate his heart in wanting God to be his God and for God to bless him
- Jacob is changed and finally worships God as his God

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Reflections on this event

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Genesis 33:20 ²⁰Then he erected there an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

Personal Reflections

Table Discussion Questions

1. How has God used a current or past crisis to cause you to cry out and cling to Him as your only hope?
2. Do you feel you have ever wrestled with God inwardly about a matter? If so, reflect on the outcome and the patience of the Lord.
3. In what area of life do you need to cling more intently to Christ?