

There's more to the story (Jacob's dream)(Genesis 28)(John 1:51)

### Ladder vs Son of Man

- In **Genesis 28:12** the angels are ascending and descending on a ladder. The ladder in **Genesis 28:12** on which the angels are ascending and descending is the connection between Heaven and earth to which the angels travel to carry out their assigned duties.
- In **John 1:51** the angels are ascending on the Son of Man.
  - **John 1:51** And He \*said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."
- In **John 1:51** the ladder is not mentioned as the connection between Heaven and earth, but rather speaks of the Son of Man. This speaks to the incarnation of the eternal Logos who became flesh and through the hypostatic union joined for eternity two natures (human and divine). Through His humiliation and exaltation, He is forever the mediator and the connection between Heaven and earth.
  - **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and <sup>[a]</sup>dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of <sup>[b]</sup>the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
  - **Phil 2:5-11** Have this attitude <sup>[c]</sup>in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be <sup>[d]</sup>grasped, <sup>7</sup> but <sup>[e]</sup>emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death <sup>[h]</sup>on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
  - **John 3:13** No one has ascended into heaven, except He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.
  - **1 Tim 2:5** For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,
  - **Ephesians 2:18** for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
  - **Daniel 7:13-14** "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup> "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and <sup>[a]</sup>a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* <sup>[b]</sup>language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

### Stone(vs 11): *Jesus is the stone/rock that was rejected but is the cornerstone and rock upon which the church is built.*

- **Acts 4:11** He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, *but* which became the chief corner *stone*.
- **1 Peter 2:6-8** For *this* is contained in <sup>[a]</sup>Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner *stone*, And he who believes in <sup>[b]</sup>Him will not be <sup>[c]</sup>disappointed." <sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner *stone*," <sup>8</sup> and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.
- **Matthew 16:13-18** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He \*said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> I also say to you that you are Peter(petros), and upon this rock(Petra) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

### Jacob rested on the rock(vs 11). Believers have spiritual rest by faith in Christ, they rest from their works & rest in Him

- **Matthew 11:25-30** At that <sup>[v]</sup>time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to

reveal Him.<sup>28</sup> “Come to Me, all [a] who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is [aa] easy and My burden is light.”

- **Romans 4:1-11** What then shall we say that Abraham, [a] our forefather according to the flesh, has found? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified [b] by works, he has something to boast about, but not [c] before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered. <sup>8</sup> “Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”<sup>9</sup> Is this blessing then on [d] the circumcised, or on [e] the uncircumcised also? For we say, “Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness.” <sup>10</sup> How then was it credited? While he was [f] circumcised, or [g] uncircumcised? Not while [h] circumcised, but while [i] uncircumcised; <sup>11</sup> and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which [j] he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,
- **Hebrews 4:9-10** So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

**At the top of the ladder, the Lord reassures the promise given to Abraham(vs 13-15).** The Seed to whom this promise who be fulfilled by is Christ, the Son of Man to whom this ladder is foreshadowing (**Galatians 3:16**).

#### **An anointed stone pillar, house of God(vs 18-22)**

- Jesus is the Messiah/Christ which means “the anointed One.” -**Matthew 16:16**
- Jesus the Messiah is the rock upon which the Church is built. – **Matthew 16:18**
- The church is the pillar and support of the truth, but Jesus is the true pillar to which the true Church is supported and built.
  - **1 Timothy 3:15** but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
- The Church is the spiritual house being built with living stones with Jesus being the cornerstone.
- The place where this event took place was previously called Luz (meaning separation) but was changed to the name Bethel which means house of God. Believers once separated are now reconciled by Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**). The church is built on the Cornerstone and the Rock which is Jesus. Believers are individual stones which make up the Church which is the spiritual house of God.
  - **1 Peter 2:4-5** And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is [a] choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, [b] are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
  - **Ephesians 2:19-22** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the [a] saints, and are of God’s household, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy [b] temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

*Jacob’s dream is pointing to the Messiah (the anointed one) who would be the rock and cornerstone upon which the house of God would be built and who access to Heaven would come through. Through His humiliation(descension) and exaltation(ascension), He is forever the mediator between Heaven and earth and between God and man. We were all at one time separated from God, but all who believe have been reconciled to Him and now rest in Him, His works, and His righteousness as living stones in God’s household. No one has ever ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.*

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