

Notes: Shabbat – December 3, 2011

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and greet
2. Introduction
3. Announcements
4. Liturgy – Ma to vu, Sh'ma, Avenu
5. Music
6. Message
7. Time of prayer
8. Aaronic Blessing
9. Kiddush
10. Oneg

Title: Ya'akov's Dream

Introduction:

Ya'akov's dream isn't isolated specifically to this one moment in time, but reveals aspects of who Adonai is, and mysteries that have been made known through Messiah.

Torah Blessing

Gen 28:12 He dreamt that there before him was a ladder resting on the ground with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of Adonai were going up and down on it.

Gen 28:13 Then suddenly Adonai was standing there next to him; and he said, "I am Adonai, the God of Avraham your [*grand*]father and the God of Yitz'chak. The land on which you are lying I will give to you and to your descendants.

Gen 28:14 Your descendants will be as numerous as the grains of dust on the earth. You will expand to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. By you and your descendants all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Gen 28:15 Look, I am with you. I will guard you wherever you go, and I will bring you back into this land, because I won't leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Gen 28:16 Ya`akov awoke from his sleep and said, "Truly, Adonai is in this place — and I didn't know it!"

Gen 28:17 Then he became afraid and said, "This place is fearsome! This has to be the house of God! This is the gate of heaven!"

Torah blessing

There are 5 distinct aspects of Ya'akov's dream:

1. The first thing that is conveyed – the identity of Adonai...establishing the connection of the covenant between Himself and Avraham and his decedents.

As during all previous times, regarding expression of the covenant, Adonai identifies who He is, therefore confirming who is making the covenant.

Ya'akov had not yet left the land region that had been promised to Avraham.

Would you sign a contract without reading it first or enter into a binding agreement without first meeting the person? It is always beneficial to know whom you are dealing with.

Gen 28:13 Then suddenly Adonai was standing there next to him; and he said, "I am Adonai, the God of Avraham your [*grand*]father and the God of Yitz'chak.

2. The second aspect that is conveyed – the reiteration of the giving of land.

This type of land grant was common, whereby a king in the ancient near east would bequeath a parcel of land to a favored servant who was under his authority.

In this case, a Great King gave His Word as oath regarding ownership of a parcel of land. The word of the servant is not relevant, given who is making the promise.

Further establishing that this covenant is unilateral and dependent on Adonai's word, not Ya'akov's

Gen 28:13...The land on which you are lying I will give to you and to your descendants.

3. The third aspect mentioned is also a reiteration originally made to Avraham and Yitz'chak – the promise that from you there will come many decedents:

Gen 28:14 Your descendants will be as numerous as the grains of dust on the earth. You will expand to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south.

This people who would be birthed into this covenant would spread out and inhabit the land granted by Adonai to Ya'akov.

4. The fourth aspect mentioned is also a reiteration of previous encounters – the blessing of the covenant. This mysterious blessing would ultimately be fulfilled in Messiah.

Gen 28:14 ...By you and your descendants all the families of the earth will be blessed.

If you were to read further in this parshah, you would notice that through Ya'akov's presence, Lavan was blessed. So, this was a mere glimpse of the potential impact of the promise made by Adonai to Ya'akov

5. The fifth aspect mentioned to Ya'akov is a new statement and relates to the ultimate fulfillment of the covenant Adonai makes.

It is through this statement that Adonai through His angels will watch over Ya'akov and protect him, in order to bring to fulfillment the covenant Adonai makes.

It is by His Word that these promises are made, and therefore Adonai takes on the responsibility of making certain that all that has been promised will become reality.

Again, unilateral...

Gen 28:15 Look, I am with you. I will guard you wherever you go, and I will bring you back into this land, because I won't leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

We have seen the aspects that encompassed the dream, what about the dream itself...

Gen 28:12 He dreamt that there before him was a ladder resting on the ground with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of Adonai were going up and down on it.

The word used to represent ladder is “sulam” and is only found in this one place in the Tenach and literally means steps or ladder.

The ladder is identified as going from the ground on the earth and reaching up to heaven, whereby the angels of Adonai are seen ascending and descending.

Gen 28:13 Then suddenly Adonai was standing there next to him;

The word stand is not the common “amad” the root for amidah (standing), but natzav, which means “station / standing for a purpose”

Adonai's purpose – to preside over the entire aspect of the covenant.

The angels ascend and descend, in order to accomplish His work and purposes. The angels are appointed to dwell with the covenant members and regularly report back to Adonai – the Great King.

The Great King sending and receiving His ambassadors in order to ensure the ongoing success of the covenant.

Conclusion:

As part of the New Covenant, we have have the same assurance found in 28:15

Gen 28:15 Look, I am with you. I will guard you wherever you go, and I will bring you back into this land, because I won't leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

It is Messiah Himself who confirms that He is the ladder that connects those on Earth with the Great King in heaven who established this covenant:

Joh 1:43 The next day, having decided to leave for the Galil, Yeshua found Philip and said, "Follow me!"

Joh 1:44 Philip was from Beit-Tzaidah, the town where Andrew and Kefa lived.

Joh 1:45 Philip found Natan'el and told him, "We've found the one that Moshe wrote about in the Torah, also the Prophets — it's Yeshua Ben-Yosef from Natzeret!"

Joh 1:46 Natan'el answered him, "Natzeret? Can anything good come from there?" "Come and see," Philip said to him.

Joh 1:47 Yeshua saw Natan'el coming toward him and remarked about him, "Here's a true son of Isra'el — nothing false in him!"

Joh 1:48 Natan'el said to him, "How do you know me?" Yeshua answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

Joh 1:49 Natan'el said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Isra'el!"

Joh 1:50 Yeshua answered him, "you believe all this just because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than that!"

Joh 1:51 Then he said to him, "Yes indeed! I tell you that you will see heaven opened and the angels of God going up and coming down on the Son of Man!"

Messiah is the means of the covenant. Without Him there is no access to Adonai and there is no covenant.

Joh 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way — and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Messiah offers protection -

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you orphans — I am coming to you.

Joh 14:25 "I have told you these things while I am still with you.

Joh 14:26 But the Counselor, the Ruach HaKodesh, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything; that is, he will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Joh 14:27 "What I am leaving with you is shalom — I am giving you my shalom. I don't give the way the world gives. Don't let yourselves be upset or frightened.

Joh 14:28 You heard me tell you, 'I am leaving, and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would have been glad that I am going to the Father; because the Father is greater than I.

Joh 14:29 "Also, I have said it to you now, before it happens; so that when it does happen, you will trust.

Do we need to sleep and dream to know that Adonai is with us?

He goes through so much to ensure that His Word is true and that we are reassured.

When we read further in Genesis we will see that Adonai was with Ya'akov the entire time he was in Haran. He took care of him, provided for him and protected him until he would return to his native land...a changed man from when he first departed.

We have that same promise. However, with a promise comes responsibility:

Joh 14:12 Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father.

Joh 14:13 In fact, whatever you ask for in my name, I will do; so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Joh 14:14 If you ask me for something in my name, I will do it.

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands;

Joh 14:16 and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforting Counselor like me, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever.

Do you?

Are you?