

# WHEN GOD MEETS US IN THE WILDERNESS

Genesis 28:1-22 | Coastal Community Fellowship | February 15, 2026

## 1. JACOB'S WILDERNESS (VS. 10-11)

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.

- Fleeing for his life with a \_\_\_\_\_ for a pillow
- Alone, vulnerable, \_\_\_\_\_
- Running from \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. THE LADDER (V. 12)

<sup>12</sup> 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!**

- \_\_\_\_\_ UP by God (Divine Initiative)
- God \_\_\_\_\_ the gap
- Angels \_\_\_\_\_ first (already on earth!)

### 3. GOD'S PROMISES (VS. 13-15)

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

- "I am \_\_\_\_\_ you" (Presence)
- "I will \_\_\_\_\_ you" (Protection)
- "I will bring you \_\_\_\_\_" (Provision)
- "I will \_\_\_\_\_ leave you" (Permanence)

### 4. "I DID NOT KNOW IT" (V. 16-18)

<sup>16</sup> Then **Jacob** awoke from his sleep and said,

**"Surely the LORD is in this place,**

and I did not know it."

<sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said,

**"How awesome is this place!**

**This is none other than the house of God,**

**and this is the gate of heaven."**

<sup>18</sup> So early in the morning

**Jacob** took the stone

that he had put under his head

and set it up for a pillar

and poured oil on the top of it.

- "Surely the LORD is in this \_\_\_\_\_"
- God was there \_\_\_\_\_ along
- Jacob couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ it yet

## 5. From Luz to Bethel: (V. 18-19)

18 So **early** in the morning

**Jacob** took the **stone** that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of **it**.

19 He **called** the name of "**that place**" **Bethel**, but the name of the city was **Luz** at the first.

- Was called \_\_\_\_\_ (insignificant)
- Jacob names it \_\_\_\_\_ (House of God)

## 6. THE PROBLEM: MAN MADE RELIGION (20-22)

20 then **Jacob** made a vow, saying,

"**IF** **God** will be with me

**AND** will keep me in this way that I go,

**AND** will give me **bread** to eat and **clothing** to wear,

21 **SO THAT** I come again to my **father's house in peace**,

**THEN** **the LORD** shall be **my God**,

22 and **this stone**, which I have set up for a pillar,

**shall be** **God's house**.

and of **all that you give me** **I will give a full tenth to** **You**."

- GOD: "I am \_\_\_\_\_ you"
- JACOB: "\_\_\_\_\_ God will be with me..."
- GOD: "I will \_\_\_\_\_ you"
- JACOB: "IF He will keep me..."
- GOD: Unconditional - "I \_\_\_\_\_"
- JACOB: Conditional - "\_\_\_\_\_ ... THEN"

## BABEL VS BETHEL

- BABEL: "Let \_\_\_\_\_ build" (human effort)
- BETHEL: "God \_\_\_\_\_ it up" (divine grace)
- Religion vs. \_\_\_\_\_

## JESUS IS THE LADDER (JOHN 1:51)

- Angels on the Son of \_\_\_\_\_
- "I am the \_\_\_\_\_" (John 14:6)

## IN YOUR WILDERNESS:

- You're not \_\_\_\_\_
- God \_\_\_\_\_ the gap
- Stop \_\_\_\_\_, start trusting
- "I am with you, I will \_\_\_\_\_ leave you"

## KEY VERSE: GENESIS 28:16

"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

## ANSWER KEY:

- **JACOB'S WILDERNESS:** stone, afraid, consequences
- **THE LADDER:** SET, bridges, ASCENDING
- **GOD'S PROMISES:** WITH, KEEP, BACK, NOT
- **"I DID NOT KNOW IT":** place, all, see
- **BETHEL:** Luz, BETHEL
- **THE PARALLEL:** WITH, IF, KEEP, WILL, IF
- **BABEL VS BETHEL:** US, SET, Grace
- **JESUS IS THE LADDER:** Man, WAY
- **IN YOUR WILDERNESS:** alone, bridges, building, not

**PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

**1. When have you felt like you were in a 'wilderness'? How did you experience God's presence (or not)?**

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**2. Looking back on a difficult season, can you now see ways God was working that you couldn't see at the time?**

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**3. In what areas are you trying to 'build your own tower' (Babel) rather than trusting God's ladder (Jesus)?**

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