

GENESIS II

THE NEXT CHAPTERS OF GOD'S RELENTLESS PLAN

Part 8: God-Size Dreams

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Observation from the Last Three Chapters

Who you marry really matters to your family

Genesis 28:10-15

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When God makes a promise, he keeps it.

Some of God's Promises

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

JOHN 8:36

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

PSALM 23:4

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Genesis 28:16-22

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the LORD will be my God ²²and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

The result of God making a promise to Jacob is that Jacob pledges himself to God.

God always does what he says he will do, even if we stumble along the way.

Jacob responds to grace with generosity.

Malachi 3:9-10

⁹ You are under a curse — your whole nation — because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

God says test me

Tithing is one of the best things you can do to grow your faith

Summary

- 1. Despite ourselves, God is gracious**
- 2. God is consistent**
- 3. Generosity is a right response to grace**

Small Group Questions

- 1) For most of us, it’s easy to recall someone who has broken a promise to us. But is there a promise someone kept that has meant a lot to you? What was that promise, and who made it?
- 2) On Ask Me Anything weekends, a frequent question is “Why does CTK teach tithing - isn’t that an Old Testament principle?” Does this week’s message give you any insight into an answer?
- 3) Why do you think it’s so hard for Americans to be generous (even though we’re one of the richest countries in the world)?
- 4) Read Acts 20:32-35. What do you think about this example of generosity?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?