

Thoughts for Today Blog # 222 “Jacob’s Journey of Faith”

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

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Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

So far this year, I have written about Abraham and Isaac’s journey of faith. God promised Abraham he would bless him beyond anything he could imagine or dream. Abraham believed God and left his home to follow God.

Isaac, Abraham’s son, was blessed by God because of God’s promise to Abraham. Isaac believed God and allowed God to use him. Both Abraham and Isaac had times of weakness, doubt, and struggles. God chose to use them in spite of their weaknesses.

This month I will be writing about Jacob. Hebrews 11:8-9 “⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.” Notice this says that Isaac and Jacob were heirs with Abraham of the same promise.

God made His promise personal to Abraham and then He made it personal to Isaac when he provided him a wife, when Isaac built an altar to God, and he passed God’s blessing on to Jacob.

We pick up the journey of Jacob as he is running in fear of Esau because he and his mother, Rebekah, had tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing belonging to Esau. Read Genesis 28:10-22

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Jacob laid down on a rock to sleep because he was weary from the journey (v. 11-12). He must have been tired if a rock was good enough for a pillow.

Jacob had a dream of the angels of God coming down and going back up a ladder to heaven. Have you noticed God seems to come to us when we are weary and in need of physical and spiritual refreshment? God was speaking to Jacob in a dream that He was open to a personal relationship with Him. He no longer needed to rely on the faith of Abraham or Isaac.

Notice in v. 13 how God reveals Himself to Jacob. God revealed Himself as the God of Abraham and Isaac, and repeats the promise He gave to Abraham and Isaac (v.14). One of the many things that jumps out at me is that He is faithful to keep His promises. If, and when, God makes a promise be assured He will keep it. It will take faith for us to realize the promise and it more than likely will only be realized one step of faith at-a-time.

The Lord’s promise was not only for the future but for the present. The Lord says in v. 15 I will be with you and watch over you wherever you go. He said I will not leave you. What a wonderful dream and what a wonderful promise!!!

Jacob did not expect to meet God where He did (v. 16). Not only does God come to us when we are weary and worn-out, He also comes to us when we don’t expect Him to.

Jacob’s first personal experience, that we know of, was when he saw angels ascending and descending a ladder from heaven. Jacob was weary from running from Esau. God came to him in his hour of need and comforted him with His promises and His presence. In our journey of faith, God will come to us in our hour of need with His promises and His presence.

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