

*But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 1Thessalonians 5:8*

## Store In My Heart

### Zechariah 1:2-3

The Lord was very angry with your fathers. Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

While Haggai urged the Jews who returned to Jerusalem after captivity to build the temple, Zechariah told them to return to the Lord.

The Jews were sent into exile because they had turned away from God. Those who had returned were still not focusing on God. Zechariah's message promised peace and prosperity if they committed themselves to truly serve the Lord with their hearts and actions. True judgments with kindness and mercy toward needy among them were needed.

We do well to consider our devotion to the Lord, lest we find ourselves cast from Him. He knows our hearts as He knew the heart of Israel.



# Jacob's Response to God's Word

## Jarrold Jacobs

**Genesis 28:1-2** records Isaac sending Jacob to Padanaram to find a wife among his mother's people. After some traveling, the Bible says Jacob spent the night in a certain place (**v. 11**). As he slept, he had a dream in which he saw, *"a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it"* (**Genesis 28:12**). In this dream, God blessed Jacob, promising him the same things He had promised Abraham and Isaac in previous years (**Genesis 28:13-15**). Please take a moment and notice the responses Jacob had to this prophetic dream.

### He Awoke

Jacob first, *"awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.' And he was afraid and said, 'How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it"* (**Genesis 28:16-18**).

What does this account teach us in the 21st century? First, just as Jacob awoke, we need to wake up to the realities around us (**v. 16**). Jacob realized that God was with him. In like manner, we need to awaken from our spiritual slumber that has us oblivious to the problems around us! (Like Jonah! - **Jonah 1:5-6**) Too many "religious" people are crying, *"Peace, peace; when there is no peace"* (**Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11**), and lulling people into a spiritual slumber! It is

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information Time Changes Next Weekend

Jimmy Gray is doing PT for his knee replacement.

Joyce Venable had a rough week.

Brenda Keisler's is trying to see a Neurologist about her pain after MRI.

Paula Laubach has some tooth trouble.

Tonight we start in 1Samuel 27.

Wednesday at 7 pm in Ephesians 5:10.

Join us for all these studies.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

high time that all of us understood that sin and error are not to be taken lightly. Let us hear the voice of God through His word, realize the seriousness of sin, and the judgment of God, and wake up while we still can (**Romans 13:11-14**)!

## He Was Afraid

The second response to this dream was that Jacob was afraid (**v. 17**). He had been in the presence of God Almighty! Let me suggest that it is high time that people became afraid! Too many have an attitude of selfishness and pride, and say that they have no fear of anything. This is dangerous! God says that those who sin willfully in His sight, have nothing to look forward to except, *"a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."* Why? Because *"it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"* (**Hebrews 10:26-31**)! Those that have refused God's word need to be afraid; for God's word will judge them (and everyone) one day (**John 12:48**).

## He Arose

Finally, Jacob arose early and built an altar and consecrated it (**v. 18**). The pouring of oil to consecrate an altar was a true sacrifice to God on the part of Jacob. He offered this willingly, knowing Whom he was worshiping!

Similarly, when people hear God's word today (through the Bible), the honest hearts will have the same reaction. After awakening to the truth, and being afraid to stay in their sins, they will arise and do what God commands (**Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 5:9; Mark 16:16**). Friend, what will you do (**2Corinthians 6:2**)? Choose wisely because we have no promise of tomorrow!

(Brother Jacobs' message is timely no matter the century. There is never a time for us to close our eyes to what is going on around us. We need to be ever vigilant against Satan and his wicked followers. We also need to keep a sober focus on what God has revealed to guide us. We need to be helping one another see the obstacles to faith and purity so that we may not stumble as we walk as children of Light. May we ever remember the power of God and the need to be busy in His work. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!