

ending and descending on it. They are going up to take to God his petitions, to take his prayer, to take the statements of his misery; they are coming back to bring God's blessing to him. At the top of the ladder stands the Lord and declares that He is the God of Abraham and Isaac, the father and grandfather of Jacob. And that Jacob is not alone. He is with him. It is not the end for Jacob but Jacob is to have a continuing list of descendants who shall spread abroad through all the land. The very place where Jacob now feels so much alone is going to be given to him and to his descendants after him and he is to be a means of blessing to all the people of the earth. Jacob is thus wonderfully reassured of God's presence with him, informed that the blessings are real and lasting and that he indeed is to be the means of bringing great blessing upon the world which God has promised. When Jacob wakes, he says, Surely the Lord is in this place and I knew it not. This, of course, does not mean that Jacob thought of God as a tribal God who remained down with his father and his family down at Beer-sheba. There is no suggestion of such an idea in the passage. It means rather that he was not aware of God's presence, that he felt as if he was an outcast going out from the family and here he has so clearly and fully made known the presence of God in blessing and in power there. He says, This is none other than the house of God, this is none other than the Gate of Heaven.

Our Lord Jesus Christ makes use of this very passage in John, the first chapter, where he says Hereafter ye shall be the angels of God, ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. There are two great lessons in the application of it to Christ; the presence of God with Jacob, which was there so real is still more real in the case of Christ, always conscious of His Father's nearness to Him. He is always conscious of the intercourse through the angels between Himself and His Father. Wherever He goes, God is constantly with Him. A communion with God, made so real to Jacob, is a present conscious and ever abiding reality in the case of Christ. There is, however, another important lesson also taught there. They shall ascend and descend upon the Son of Man. I believe that Christ is also pointing out that He, Himself, is the Ladder, that He is the medium between God and man, and that it is by means of Him that the blessing indeed comes to humanity and that the promises made to Jacob are fulfilled.