Genesis 28.10-19 (Wednesday 22/07/2020)

**Jacob’s Ladder**

*“May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham”-* If we look back to verse 4 in this Chapter, we see that this is the blessing that was given to Jacob by his father. If we then look back to that blessing that was given to Abraham, we will see that we too are included - *“and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”.* (Genesis 12.3).

So, we do have something of a direct interest in this story that was set out so long ago. It’s very much a part of our story!

It of course relates back to the story of the fall of humankind, as represented by Adam and Eve. The temptation to Eve was that if she ate of the forbidden fruit that she would become like God - *“your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil”* (Genesis 3.5). This seems to be the key to our relationship with God. He has given to us freedom, as the God who is love must of course do. But if we use that freedom to try to operate independently of God it is a disaster, as we really are not truly competent to do that. You just have to read the paper or listen to the news to see how true that is!

Remember the accounts of the temptations of Jesus. These were symbolic attempts to get him to act independently from God the Father. But they fail and he remains the perfect human in that he keeps that perfect relationship even in the face of that final temptation – his horrible painful death.

So, this story of the vision given to Jacob, is part of that account we have in scripture of that long process by which God, who is love, draws that rebellious creation back to himself. It begins with the call to Abraham and it ends with the death and resurrection of Jesus. That relationship with our Creator God is of course the whole purpose for which we were created.

Try reading this story again. Do it nice and slowly and ponder of the fact that it really is a component of your story as a Christian.

(The place Bethel (the word means dwelling of God) became a special place for worship- and still is.)

**Prayers**

(just a few thoughts!)

* Let’s continue to remember those who are suffering from Covid infections at this time and also those who are close to them.
* Pray for Richard Lynn and family following sad death of Lillian and also for all recently bereaved.
* Pray for folk who are still finding this “lockdown” so difficult to handle and for those who are worrying and trying to care for them.
* Let’s remember those known to each of us who are suffering from other chronic ailments and who are finding it difficult to get their normal care and support.
* Please pray for the teams who are working towards finding a therapy and a vaccine.
* Continue to hold in your prayers those in the NHS who are still very much the “front line”: and for their families who must continue to worry about them.
* Pray for those we know who are not well at this time and who are battling with the slow process of recovery. Continue to pray for Rebecca.
* Remember our government leaders and the scientists who advise them. They clearly need our prayers as they advise on the steps to come out of lock-down. Remember too those who are suffering real financial difficulties as businesses suffer and collapse.