

# Stairway to Heaven

## Genesis 27:46 - 28:22

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# Chiasm (first part)

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Conflict w/ Esau (25:19-34; 27:1-45; 27:46-28:9)

❖ Jacob and God at Bethel (28:10-22)

❖ Conflict w/ Laban (29:1-30)

❖ Birth of the children (29:31-30:24)

## Chiasm (last part)

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- ❖ Birth of the children (29:31-30:24)
- ❖ Conflict/covenant w/ Laban (30:25-31:55)
- ❖ Jacob and God at Penu'el (32:22-32)
- ❖ Reconciliation w/ Esau (32:3-21; 33:1-17)



# Jacob's Blessing

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- ❖ We see what we want to see
- ❖ God works with the good, the bad and the ugly
- ❖ God's blessing comes to us on its way to others
- ❖ God's blessing has a cost



# Learning Today

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- ❖ Do not be unequally yoked
- ❖ Jesus is the Stairway From Heaven
- ❖ How to respond to God's promises

## Genesis 27:46

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Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I’m disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living.”



## Genesis 28:1-2

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So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: “Do not marry a Canaanite woman. Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother’s father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother.

# Walter Bruggemann

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What is urged is not ethnic or racial purity,  
but disciplined, intentional identity in  
the face of pagan or disbelieving cultures.



## 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

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**Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.**

**For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?**

**Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?**

## Philippians 2:14-15

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Do everything without grumbling or arguing,  
so that you may become blameless and pure,  
“children of God without fault in a warped  
and crooked generation.”



## Philippians 2:15-16

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Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

## Genesis 28:3-4

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“May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham.”



## Genesis 28:5

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Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way,  
and he went to Paddan Aram, to Laban  
son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother  
of Rebekah, who was the mother  
of Jacob and Esau.

## Genesis 28:6-7

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Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and had sent him to Paddan Aram to take a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he commanded him, "Do not marry a Canaanite woman," and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and had gone to Paddan Aram.



## Genesis 28:8-9

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Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac; so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.

## Genesis 28:10-11

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Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran.

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.



# Genesis 28:12

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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.

## Genesis 28:13

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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.”



## Genesis 28:14

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**“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.**

## Genesis 28:15

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**“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.”**



## John 1:51

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He [Jesus] then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

## Matthew 1:22-23

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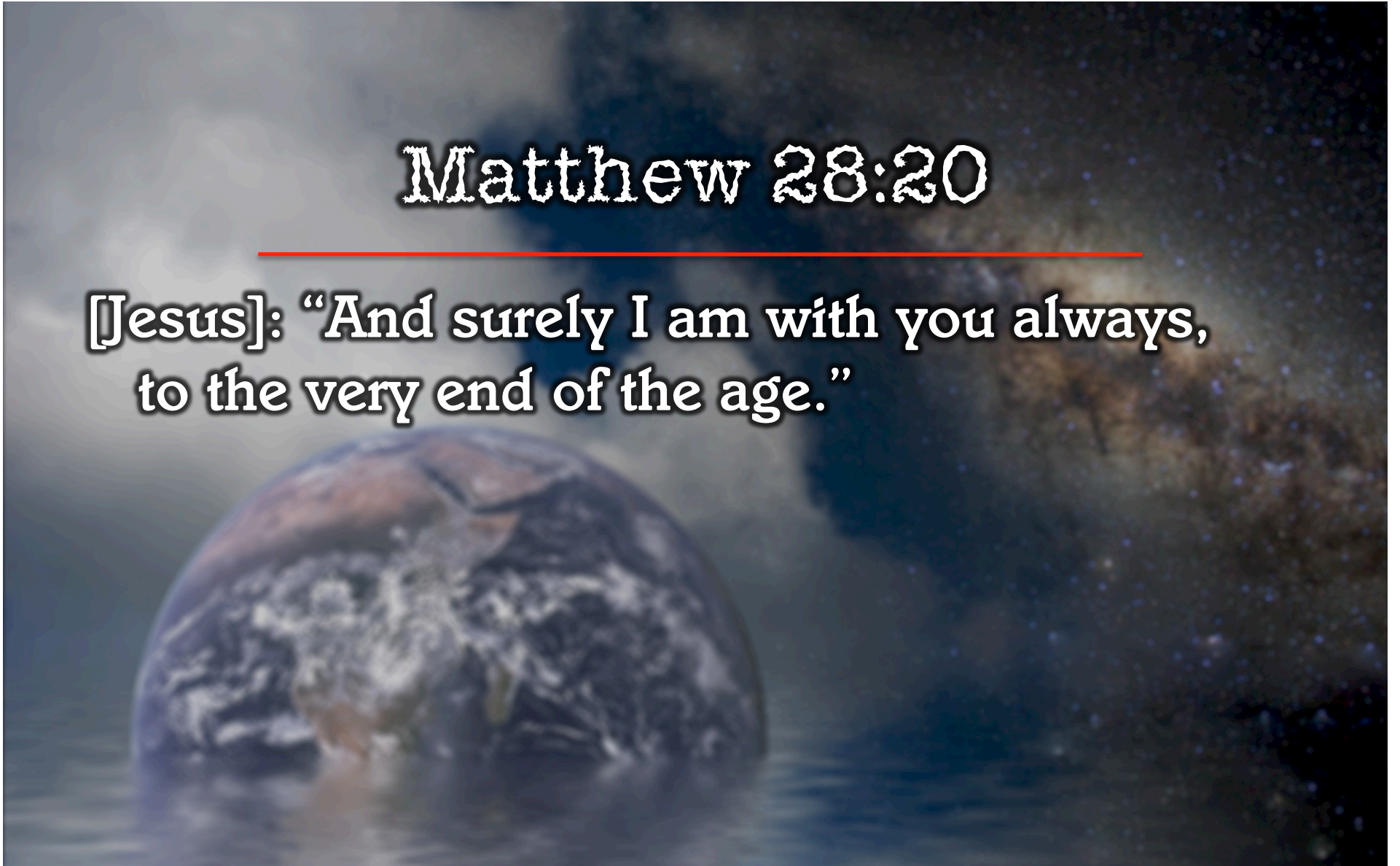
All this took place to fulfill what the LORD had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).



# Matthew 28:20

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[Jesus]: “And surely I am with you always,  
to the very end of the age.”



## Genesis 28:16-17

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When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” 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.”



## Genesis 28:18-19

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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. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

## Genesis 28:20-21

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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 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God"



## Genesis 28:22

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“and 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.”

## Psalm 23:1-3

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The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.



# Psalm 23:4

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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 23:5

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You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.



## Psalm 23:6

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Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

# Jacob's Summary vs Psalm 23

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## JACOB

- ❖ Be with me
- ❖ Watch over me

## PSALM 23

- ❖ You are with me  
(verse 4)
- ❖ Green pastures, quiet waters, refreshes, guides (verses 2-3)



# Jacob's Summary vs Psalm 23

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## JACOB

- ❖ Food to eat
- ❖ Return to ...  
father's house

## PSALM 23

- ❖ You prepare a table  
(verse 5)
- ❖ I will dwell in the  
house of the LORD  
forever (verse 6)

# Jacob's Response

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- ❖ Faith in God
- ❖ Worship God





# Praise Him

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Praise Him; Praise Him,  
Praise Him in the morning,  
Praise Him in the noontime,  
Praise Him; Praise Him,  
Praise Him when the sun goes down.

# Jacob's Response

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- ❖ Faith in God
- ❖ Worship God
- ❖ Tithe



# Learned Today

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- ❖ Do not be unequally yoked
- ❖ Jesus is the Stairway From Heaven
- ❖ Our response to God's promises:
  - ❖ Faith
  - ❖ Worship
  - ❖ Tithe







# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper