

## SERMON NOTES



### Shadows:

*A Glimpse of a Stairway!*  
February 25, 2024

Colossians 2:17 **These are a shadow** of the things that were to come; **the reality**, however, **is found in Christ**.

### What is the purpose of a stairway?

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. 11 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. 12 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.** 13 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. 14 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. 15 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."

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 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."

18 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. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

1. Stairway \_\_\_\_\_ us to what was \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Sin disconnects us from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Genesis 27:41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

- *Isaiah 59:1-3 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. 3 For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.*

**b. God connects us to his \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_.**

- *Hebrews 10:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance— now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

**2. Stairway gives us \_\_\_\_\_ to what was \_\_\_\_\_.**

**a. God \_\_\_\_\_ to dwell with us!**

- *Matthew 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*
- *John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**b. We \_\_\_\_\_ to dwell with God!**

- *John 1:49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” 50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” 51 He 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.”*
- *John 14:1-6 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”*
- *Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*

### 3. Stairway focuses my life \_\_\_\_\_ on the life \_\_\_\_\_.

- *Colossians 3:1-4 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

**Everyone Outreach Witness Idea:** *Do you know someone who feels God is distant and avoiding them? Use the picture of a stairway and the story of Jacob as an example of God's willingness to come to us to show us his love and share with us his promises.*

*NEXT WEEK: Shadows: A glimpse of a Sabbath!*

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**MY PERSONAL NOTES**

## **SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life**

**The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:**

**The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:**

**The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:**

**My prayers today are:**

**Someone I would like to bless with today's message:**