

Parashat Vayetze

פרשת ויצא

Shabbat Kislev 6, 5771, November 13, 2010

32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of God

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Yeshua is our ladder to Heaven

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 28:10-32:3

הפטרה: Hosea 12:13-14:10

הברית: John 1:19-51

החדשה

In the reading for this week, Parashat Vayetze (“and he went out”), from *Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-22*, God gave Yaakov a vision of angels ascending and descending upon a ladder at a place that is called Luz. Reading through sefer Bereshit (the book of Genesis) up until this point it appears that this is the first time God has revealed Himself to Yaakov (Jacob). The Lord reiterated the covenant He had made with his father’s Avraham and Yitzchak (Isaac) and promises to never leave Yaakov until He has done what He has promised him. As a result, Yaakov calls the place he was laying “Beit-El” (Bethel) meaning the “house of God” because God was in this place.

בראשית 28:10-16

10 ׀ בַּן־אֲבֹרָהִם אַחֹת נְבוֹתַת עַל־נַשְׂיוֹ לֹו לְאִשָּׁה: וַיֵּצֵא פֶרֶשׁ
11 יַעֲקֹב מִבְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חֲרָנָה: וַיִּפְגַּע בַּמָּקוֹם וַיִּלֵּן שָׁם
כִּי־בָא הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּקַּח מֵאֲבָנֵי הַמָּקוֹם וַיִּשֶׂם מִרְאשְׁתּוֹ
12 וַיִּשְׁכַּב בַּמָּקוֹם הַהוּא: וַיַּחֲלֹם וַיִּחַלֵּם וַהֲנֵה סֹלֶם מֵצַב אַרְצָה
וּרְאִשׁוֹ מֵנִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וַהֲנֵה מֵלֹאכֵי אֱלֹהִים עָלָיו
13 וַיֵּרְדִים בּוֹ: וַהֲנֵה יְהוָה נֹצֵב עָלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי
אֲבֹרָהִם אָבִיךָ וְאֱלֹהֵי יַצְחָק הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה שֹׁכֵב
14 עָלֶיהָ לֵךְ אֲתַנְנֶה וְלִזְרַעֲךָ: וְהָיָה זֶרְעֶךָ כְּעֶפֶר הָאָרֶץ
וּפְרֻצֹתָ יָמָה וְקָדְמָה וְאַחֲרָיָה וְנִגְבָּהּ וְנִבְרַכְוּ כָךְ כָּל־
15 מִשְׁפַּחַת הָאָדָמָה וּבְזֶרְעֶךָ: וַהֲנֵה אֲנֹכִי עִמָּךְ וְשָׁמְרְתִיךָ
בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־תֵּלֵךְ וַהֲשִׁבְתִּיךָ אֶל־הָאָדָמָה הַזֹּאת כִּי לֹא
אֶעֱזָבְךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר אִסְעֵשִׂיתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי לָךְ:
16 וַיִּקֶּן יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה
17 וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי: וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מִהֲנִירָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה

Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-16

28:10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 28:11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 28:12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 28:13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 28:14 ‘Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 28:15 ‘Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.’ 28:16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.’ (NASB)

25 The importance of the vision for Yaakov was that God was promising to remain with him as he traveled outside of the Promised Land. In Bethel (the house of God) God is going to make a place where He can be recognized and the authority of His Word can spread out. Is it any surprise that Yeshua used this portion of scripture while speaking to his disciples about himself in *John 1:51* And He said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.' (NASB). In 30 *John 1:29-51*, Yeshua (Jesus) links his discussion with Nathanael to the patriarch Yaakov and the dream he had. Yeshua told Nathanael and the other disciples they will see heaven opened up and angels ascending and descending on the son of man. The reason being is that through Yeshua God has established the way in which He will be recognized and through whom the authority of His Word can 35 spread out.

Searching through the bible, outside of these references, we find no mention of angels ascending and descending on Yeshua, so what exactly is Yeshua trying to say in *John 1:51*? The dream of the ladder with angels ascending and descending is a picture of God establishing a line of 40 communication between heaven and earth. The angels were using a ladder to move between heaven and earth. Yeshua's usage of the scriptures from Parashat Vayetze is saying that he is providing access and a relationship with God to those who would believe upon him. Yeshua referenced this ladder when he met Nathanael in order to help him to understand this principle about himself. In this 45 passage Yeshua makes explicit reference to Parashat Vayetze telling Nathanael that He is the ladder to God, the true sha'ar hashamayim (Gate of Heaven), and the only way into Heaven.

50 **John 14:6**

14:6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (NASB)

I am certain this was very confusing to the people at the time Yeshua was telling them of these things. Even his disciples had trouble understanding what 55 Yeshua taught in parables that illustrated moral or spiritual lessons. Take for example the parable of the Sower in *Luke 8:4-15*. Reading through the parable of the Sower, Yeshua says *8:10 ... 'To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. (NASB)*. This sentence reminds me of 60 the allure of secret formulas or codes that appeal to one's imagination that are so prevalent today on television and the internet. In the passages from *Luke* chapter 8, Yeshua revealed that His followers have the secrets of the knowledge of mysteries of the kingdom of God. Yeshua said this after he told the parable of the Sower to a large crowd. He concluded the parable with a quote from *Yeshayahu /* 65 *Isaiah* chapter 6 saying "*He who has ears to hear let him hear.*" The context from *Isaiah* indicates that *Isaiah* had just responded to the call from God and the first thing he was to do was to *6:9 ... 'Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.' (NASB)* The Lord went on to describe how His people would be judged for their sins, but yet there was 70 hope.

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With this in mind, the explanation Yeshua gave on the parable of the Sower, two points from Yeshua’s dialogue with the disciples are important to note. (i) it appears that only the disciples had the curiosity to ask Yeshua the meaning of the parable and (ii) the knowledge of the kingdom of God is directly connected to the way God works through His Word for His people. Both in Isaiah and in the parable from *Luke 8*, the Word went forth and in both instances a remnant of His people was preserved. He also mentioned that only a fraction of the seeds end up bearing fruit. Most of those who hear the Word fall away or find spiritual desire choked by the cares of the world. In light of the scriptures pointing to Yeshua as the messiah, where Yeshua has provided the means for our ability to draw near to God, there are still some who will not believe.

As God revealed Himself to Yaakov, He told Yaakov that He was the God of his fathers, Avraham and Yitzchak (Isaac). By saying *“I am the God of your fathers ...”* God revealed Himself in a familiar manner so that Yaakov (Jacob) would know without a doubt that the Most High God will be with him. The nature and the purpose of this encounter with God establish Yaakov’s relationship with God. In a similar way, Yeshua uses the Yaakov’s dream to describe the very real, living relationship that he provides with God to those who would believe in him. Our growth in the knowledge of god depends on His Word. How much time do we spend studying His Word? Do we proclaim it? Do we nurture it as a priority in our lives? Do we go to God with our questions about it? Doing these things indicates a healthy growth pattern for believers. Our knowledge of God also gives us a hope in the face of testing, whether in our own lives or when we see God’s people facing difficult times. The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God is that Yeshua is our Messiah and only by placing our faith in him can we have everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 9:9-11

9:9 as it is written, ‘He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever.’ 9:10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 9:11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. (NASB)

Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever