

2.9.25

The Question of When

Genesis 28:10 - 15 (ESV)

Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 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." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Genesis 28:20 – 22

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."



Question #1: does God answer prayer?

Question #2: When will He answer my prayer?

Other things he could not have anticipated

- Serving for Rachel 7 years and being swindled on his wedding night
- Having to serve another 7 years for the wife he was originally promised
- Having to contend with jealousy and contention between his two wives
- Having to deal with a crooked and untrustworthy Father-in-law

Other Biblical Characters who had similar experiences

- Joseph – from Pit to Pharaoh – 17 years
- Moses – from Pharaoh to Red Sea – 40 years
- Moses – from Red Sea to Promised Land – 40 years
- King David – from Shepherd to King – 14 years
- Jesus – from Temple to ministry start – 18 years

The Danger of a grumbling and complaining spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:9 - 11

We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

James 1:2 - 4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The need for "Patient Endurance"

- *I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus.....*
- *I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance*
- *I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance*
- *Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.*

Takeaway Points

- Trust Him in the midst of the gap
- Know some prayers will never be answered this side of eternity
- Know that God is always at work whether you can see Him or not
- The more silent He seems the more you lean in
- Trust Him even when He says no
- Trust His timing
- Stay thankful! Stay grateful!