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FACULTY OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

COURSE CODE: [FCM 106]

COURSE TITLE: THE AWESOMENESS OF THE HOUSE OF GOD

TEXT

Genesis28:17NKJV

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!"

Genesis28:10-22NKJV

Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also, your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall 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 spoken to 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!" Then Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

INTRODUCTION

Like Jacob in the text above, it is possible to be in the house of God and not understand the value of where we are. What we don't value we are unlikely to maximize. The essence of this course is to share with us the value of the house of God so that we can maximize our encounters there.

1. THE CHURCH IS A CONNECTING POINT BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH (THE LADDER IS JESUS)

Genesis28:12

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

John1:51

And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

2. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE OF ANGELIC RESIDENCE, ASCENSION AND DESCENT

Genesis28:12

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

Hebrews12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.

3. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OVER WHICH THE LORD PRESIDES AND RESIDES

Genesis28:13

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

Ezekiel48:35

All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be THE LORD IS THERE."

Genesis28:16

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

4. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF THE REVELATION OF THE GOD OF THE PATRIARCHS (The Fathers)

Genesis28:13

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

5. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF THE REVELATION OF OUR TRANSGENERATIONAL INHERITANCES

Genesis28:13

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

6. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF THE REVELATION OF OUR GENERATIONAL EXPANSION AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE.

Genesis28:14

Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis13:16

And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

7. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE OF THE REVELATION OF GOD'S ABIDING PRESENCE AND PROTECTION AND COMMITMENT

Genesis28:15

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 spoken to you."

Hebrews13:5AMP

"Let your character [your moral essence, your inner nature] be free from the love of money [shun greed—be financially ethical], being content with what you have; for He has said, "I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax my hold on you [assuredly not]!"

8. THE HOUSE OF GOD IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN

Genesis28:17

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!"

9. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE FOR THE OFFERING AND ACCEPTANCE OF SPIRITUAL LIBATIONS OR OFFERINGS AND DIVINE AUDIENCE

Genesis28:18-22

Then Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to you."

Genesis31:13

I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "

