

Advent Readings Day 9

Jacob was fleeing from his brother, Esau. Certainly, when their father died, Esau would seek out and kill his younger brother. Weary from running, Jacob laid his head to rest on a stone and slept a fitful sleep for the night. In his tossing, he dreamed a simple dream. A ladder touched the earth and reached the heights of heaven. Angels of the Lord were ascending and descending on the ladder in glory and majesty. God almighty was there at the top. God spoke to Jacob and confirmed his promise to Abraham and Isaac. "I will give you this land as I promised to your father and your grandfather. Behold, I am with you and will not leave you until I've accomplished what I've promised."

Jacob awoke in fear and trembling. "This can be none other than the house of God, and this is the very gate of heaven." He took the stone he had slept upon and anointed it with oil, and he named the place Bethel, which means "house of God."

And that would be the end of the story if not for a single verse spoken by our savior, Jesus. When Jesus met Nathanael, he said, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." This statement amazed Nathanael, and he declared, "you are the son of God."

Jesus responded, "do you believe because I said I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these; you will see heaven opened up and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

There it is! I hope you saw it. Heaven opened. Angels were ascending and descending on a ladder... no, wait. Not a ladder this time. This time they are ascending and descending on the Son of Man. On Jesus. On Christ, the savior. The ladder touched down on the earth and connected it to the very gate of heaven. Here Christ interprets that dream for us. He is the ladder. He is the point of contact between heaven and earth. No one can come to the father but through him.

A dream of a ladder. A connection point between man and God. Access is granted to heaven by one means.

One way: Jesus.