



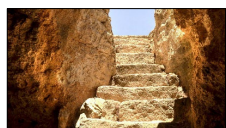
# Stair Case

## *The Way of Truth to Life*

April 5, 2026

Happy Easter! **He is risen! He is risen indeed!** Therefore: **We will rise! We will rise indeed!** And:

[Those] raised from the dead ... are like angels and cannot die. – Luke 20:35-36 NCV



We've been talking about Joseph and his dreams. But his dad, Jacob is a heavy-hitter dreamer! Back when Jacob was a bachelor in Beersheba, he fled from his twin after duping their dad into giving him his brother's blessing. And:



Jacob left Beersheba and ... stopped for the night ... [and] taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. [And] 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. [The stairway; and] There above it stood the Lord, and He said: [among many promises (edited for time)] ... "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you" ... [And] When Jacob awoke ... he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place ... [This is] the house of God; [and] this [head-stone] is the gate of heaven." ... [So] Jacob took the [head] stone ... set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. [And] He called that place Beth-El [House of God] – Genesis 28:10-19 NIV



The reason Jacob's dream is perfect for Easter, is that **it depicts the distance and disconnect we can sense from sin, between God's holiness and our lowliness.** And it paints a prophetic picture of our heavenly Father and **the infinite gap that's filled and fulfilled with Christ's resurrection.**

[And later on] God said to Jacob, "Go up to Beth-El ... and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you" ... and [he did, and] he called the place [of the altar] El Beth-El, [God of the house of God] because it was there that God revealed himself to him ... [and the story is then retold, revealing that] God [had] said to [Jacob], "I am God Almighty" [and, promise-promise, and] ... Then God went up from him at the place where He had talked with him. [Which means, He came down to him to speak to him! So] Jacob set up a [head] stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him ... [called] Beth-El. – Genesis 35:1-15 NIV

[Now] The Lord [later] [leads] [Moses and the family-tribes of Jacob a.k.a. Israel, to their Promised Homeland] ... in a pillar of cloud ... [and] a pillar of fire – Exodus 13:21 NKJ

And [He's also referred to as] the Angel [lit. Messenger] of God ... [when the Pillar] went behind them [to protect and guard them from their enemies] – Exodus 14:19 NKJ

And later still, Isaiah prophecies to the family-tribes of Jacob a.k.a. Israel that one day:



Your Light will break forth ... and your healing ... [and] then your righteousness will go before you, [and Paul says that Christ Jesus has become our righteousness (1 Cor 1:30)] and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. – Isaiah 58:8 NIV

And later still, *Paul reveals something incredible, by calling the Pillar of Jacob .a.k.a. Israel ...*

The spiritual Rock that followed them ... and the Rock was Christ. – 1 Corinthians 10:4 ESV

a.k.a. the “offspring” of Jacob. The Living “Stone”. (1 Pet 2:4) And the “Head” of the body. (Col 1:18)



I was *flipping through channels* the other *night* and came across *Forrest Gump*; and was *immediately mesmerized*. And I wondered *why* it was so *engaging*. And I *realized* it's because they *connected* all these *classic historical moments* by not only *including* Forrest, but *giving* him a *strategic role* in *shaping* them. And *likewise* you should *realize* that **the OT becomes incredibly engaging when we're seeking and finding Jesus hiding in the classic stories** – and not only *taking part* in them, but **taking the ultimate strategic role**. Remember when *Jesus* said to the *Pharisees*:

“If you believed *Moses*, you would believe *Me*; for he wrote about Me.” – John 5:46-47 NKJ

For *instance*, *Moses* wrote that the *Lord* had *said* to him:

“Behold, I send an Angel [lit. Messenger] before you to keep you in the way [And *Jesus* said, “I am the way” (Jn 14:6)] and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.” [And *Jesus* said, “I go to prepare a place for you” (Jn 14:2)] – Exodus 23:20 NKJ

And [the *Lord*] said, [to *Moses*] “My Presence [lit. Face] will go with you, and I will give you rest.” [And *Jesus* said, “Come to Me ... and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28)] – Exodus 33:14 NKJ

And [*Moses*] said, “Please, show me Your glory.” ... But [the *Lord*] said, “You cannot see My face; [linking His glory to His face] for no man shall see Me, and live.” – Exodus 33:20 NKJ

So the *Lord* spoke to *Moses* face to face, as a *Man* [a Face Messenger] – Exodus 33:11 NKJ

And we all *behold* the glory of the Lord with His face unveiled – 2 Corinthians 3:18 NMB

[For] It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, [like the mysterious Messenger of His Face] but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. – Proverbs 25:2 NKJ

[Which is why *King David* writes] The *Lord* is my Light and my Salvation ... [and] my life; ... [And since “no man shall see Me, and live”] When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, [the Messenger of] “Your face, Lord, I will seek.” [So] Do not hide [the matter of the glory of] Your face from me ... O *God* of my Salvation. – Psalm 27:1-9 NKJ

[*Isaiah* writes] “I hid [the glory of] My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” says the *Lord*, your Redeemer. – Isaiah 54:8 NKJ

“And [*Ezekiel* writes] I will not hide My face from them anymore” – Ezekiel 39:29 NKJ

So He became their Savior. [Writes *Isaiah*] In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel [lit. Messenger] of His Presence [lit. Face] saved them – Isaiah 63:8-9 NKJ

And on the *day* of His *resurrection*, two *confused* disciples were *walking* to *Emmaus*. And:

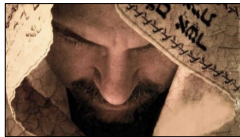
As they *talked* ... [Jesus] *walked along with them*; but *they were kept from recognizing Him*. ... [And] [He said] “*Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His [face-concealed] glory?*” And beginning with *Moses and all the Prophets*, He explained to them what was said in *all the Scriptures concerning Himself*. – Luke 24:15-27 NIV

[For God] [writes Paul, as Isaiah said] made His *Light* shine in *our hearts to give us the light* of the *[concealed] knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ*. – 2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV

O *house of Jacob [Beth-El]* ... walk *[up]* in the *light* of *[El]* the Lord. – Isaiah 2:5 ESV

And at the Last Supper, the *night* before He was *lifted up* on the *cross*, Jesus *revealed*, that:

“In My *[heavenly] Father’s house [i.e. Beth-El]* are many rooms ... [And] I am *going* there to *prepare a place* for you ... that you also may be where I am. [And] *You know the way* to the *place* where I am *going*.” [Thomas said] “*Lord, we don’t know where You are going, so how can we know the way?*” Jesus answered, *[Come on, think-think-think: I’m going to the house of God, and] “I am the way and the truth and the life. [And] No one comes to the Father except through Me. [Cuz I’m the Gate (Jn 10:9)] ... Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father” ... [and] Jesus answered: “Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time?” [Come on, Philip – remember!] – John 14:2-9 NIV*



Back before He called His *disciples*, He’d *flipped* the *Script-ure* on its *head-stone*.



*Philip* found *Nathanael* and told him, “We have found *the One Moses wrote about ... about whom the prophets also wrote*” ... [Long story short] *Nathanael* declared, “*Rabbi, You are the Son of God; [so there’s the Father; and] You are the King of [Jacob a.k.a.] Israel.*” ... [And] [Jesus said] “*I tell you [two] the truth, [like Jacob] you shall see heaven open, [revealed] and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.*” – John 1:45-51 NIV

Cuz in *Jacob’s dream*, **the stairway isn’t a structure, it’s a Savior!** And Jesus *revealed* to *Philip* and *Nathanael* that **He’d revealed Himself to Jacob in that OT classic: Stairway to Heaven!** So *Philip* should’ve heard: “**I am the [stair] way the [revealed] truth and the life [to come].**” And if we *weave* Jesus’ *revealed glory* with the *accounts* we’ve already read, we get the *full reveal*:

[Jacob] put [a stone] under his *head* and ... saw [the Son of Man as] a *stairway* resting on the *earth*, with its top *reaching to heaven*, and the *angels* of God were *ascending* and *descending* on [the Son of Man]. [And] There *above* it *stood* the *Lord*, and *He* [the Messenger of His face, came down and] *said*: “I am the *Lord [God Almighty (35:11)] ... [and, promise-promise-promise, and] All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.*” ... [Then God went up from him at the place where He had talked with him (35:13)] [And] When *Jacob* awoke ... he thought, “*Surely the Lord [of heaven and earth (Acts 17:24)] is in this place ... [This is] the house of God; [in heaven, and] this is the gate of heaven.*” [On earth. And Jesus said, “*Whoever enters through Me will be saved*” (Jn 10:9)] ... [So] *Jacob* took *the stone* [Cuz we come to Christ as to a Living Stone (1 Pet 2:4)] ... and set it *up* as a *pillar* [at the place where God had talked with him (35:14)] [Cuz the Lord *blazed* the *trail* and *led* them *out of bondage in a pillar* (Ex 13:21)] ... [and] He called that place [where God had talked with him (35:15)] *Beth-El [House of God, and] [There he [later] built an altar, [to the Stairway of Man] and he called the place El Beth-El, [God of the House of God] because it was there [at the altar] that God [the Son] revealed Himself to him (35:7)] – Genesis 28:11-19 NIV*

Did you know that **OT sacrificial altars were forbidden to have stairs**? The Lord said:

“You shall *not* go up by *steps* to My *altar*” – Exodus 20:26 NAS

[Cuz] [He] *builds Stairs up* to heaven and sets their *Foundation* on the earth – Amos 9:6 NOG

[And] No one can lay *any* foundation *other* than ... Jesus Christ. – 1 Corinthians 3:11 NIV



And that's because **religious rules and rituals and self-righteousness simply can't bridge the gap**. Only the *righteousness* of Christ, as *faithful High Priest* and *perfect sacrifice*, **not only makes the way but, becomes the way to our Father in heaven**. But, remember when *Nicodemus* came to *Jesus*? *Jesus* said:



“No one has [yet] *ascended to heaven* but *He* who came down from heaven, that is, the *Son of Man* who is *in* heaven. [In that *OT classic: Stairway to Heaven*] And as *Moses lifted up* the *serpent* [on a *cross-beam* or *banner-pole*] ... so must the *Son of Man* be *lifted up*, [to bridge the gap] that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have [a *gateway to a straight and narrow stairway to*] *eternal life*. – John 3:12-15 NKJ



By a *new* and *living way* [through the *narrow Gate that leads to life* (Mt 7:13-14)] opened for us through [His body] ... *over* [Beth-El] *the house of God* – Hebrews 10:19-22 NIV

[Because] The way of *life* winds upward ... from *hell below*. – Proverbs 15:24 NKJ

[And] “On this *Rock* I will build My church, and the *gates of hell* shall not prevail” [Because our *Gateway*, by a *new* and *living way*, is a *Stairway to Yhwh!*] – Matthew 16:18 ESV

[So] Go through the *Gates*! Prepare the way ... *Build up* the *highway*! ... *Lift up* a *Banner* for the peoples! Indeed the Lord has proclaimed ... “*Salvation is coming*” – Isaiah 62:10-11 NKJ

The *Mighty One* of *Jacob* ... the *Rock* of *Israel* ... of the *heavens above* – Genesis 49:24-25 NIV

For thus says the *One* who is *high and lifted up* ... “[I dwell] with him who is of a *contrite* and *lowly* spirit ... I *hid My face* ... but I will *heal* him ... [and] *lead* him – Isaiah 57:15-18 ESV

“See, I am setting before you the *way of life* and the *way of death*.” – Jeremiah 21:8 NIV

[For] the *teaching is light*; and reproofs for *discipline* are the *way of life* – Proverbs 6:23 NAS

And on the *night* of His *resurrection*, He *appeared* to His *confused* disciples. And:

Then He *opened their minds* so they could *understand* the Scriptures. [Like the *Pillar* that led them *out of bondage*; and the *Stairway* that *reached up to heaven*] ... [And] When He had *led them out* ... He *lifted up* His *hands* ... and was *taken up into heaven*. – Luke 24:45-51 NIV

[Cuz] “[Those] *raised from the dead* ... are like *angels*” [in that *OT classic*] – Luke 20:35-36 NCV

[And] [God] made *all* of this *plain* to us by ... Jesus, our *Savior*, who *broke* the *power of death* [bridged the gap] and *showed* us the [Stair] *way to everlasting life* – 2 Timothy 1:10 NLT