

God of "Stone"

Gen 28:10-22

Intro:

- The Voice of God, the God Who Sees (*El Roi*)
- God's great passion is focused on His people
- How does God want to move in our lives?
 - Many want His power...
 - ...but what of His will??
 - Does God only see the rich and prosperous?
 - Does He see what and where you are going?

I. Man on the Run

- Jacob is fleeing his brother's anger
- Has a "blessing" but has lost his family
- What is his fortune - a field of rocks! (11)
 - When we have nothing, we still have God!
 - "took stones of the place" – not from elsewhere!
 - Many of us look away from where we are...
 - Jacob was able to put all else aside and sleep...
 - Viktor Frankl – Jewish WW2... find meaning
 - Stones can be foundations, ballast or anchors!

II. Man in the Dream

- Ladder reaching to the Heaven... the Lord above!
 - God is the One who bridges the gap
 - God of your past; your heritage
 - If God knows where we have come from...
- Blessings given without conditions
 - The Land!
 - Multiplied descendants – in you all families blessed
 - Presence – with you; keep you; will not leave you
 - Jacob focused on the place...

III. Man in Response

- From Pillow to Pillar – the stone set apart
 - Oil on the stone...
 - Bethel is anointed.. A long and diverse history
- Vows from a heart changed [1st mention]
 - Since/If – big difference... which do we use?
 - Requests? Presence; Protection; Provision; Return
 - God will be my God...
 - Vow of a 10th to the Lord – to whom did he give it?
 - A Pillar for God's house...

Connections:

- When we fail, we need an encounter with God
- Jacob had nothing to offer God
- God's promises are His to make and keep
- The picture of a Stone...
 - Here it grants sleep and awareness of God
 - Rock of Ages...
 - Pillar; Temple; New Heavens and Earth
- Is God waiting for a response today?