

Jacob's Ladder

1. What is the context leading up to Jacob's Ladder?
 - a. Jacob and Esau

 - b. Jacob and his parents

 - c. His journey

2. There is this theme or pattern of God giving out His promises and then forcing His people to wait.
 - a. All of creation

 - b. Abraham

 - c. Jacob

 - d. David

 - e. You and me

3. Why does God make us wait? What is often our response to said waiting, especially when suffering strikes?

4. Two Hebrew words we need to know that help expand this story
 - a. פָּרַץ-to meet or encounter
 - b. פָּגַע-to break through

5. What is the ladder pointing to? **(It is the union of the divinity with our flesh)**
 - a. John 1:51

 - b. “That man, who was scourged, who is the lowest under death, under the wrath of God, under sin and every kind of evil, and finally under hell, is the highest God.” Why? Because it is the same Person. Although the nature is twofold, the Person is not divided. Therefore, both things are true: the highest divinity is the lowest creature, made the servant of all men, yes, subject to the devil himself. On the other hand, the lowest creature, the humanity, or the man, sits at the right hand of the Father and has been made the highest; and He subjects the angels to Himself, not because of His human nature, but because of the wonderful conjunction and union established out of the two contrary and unjoinable nature in one Person.”¹

 - c. How else do we see God coming down and up between Heaven and Earth?

 - d. How do we see the ascent and descent of angels?

6. How does God want to be known?

7. Bethel (1 Kings 12:28-29) and how Satan tries to supplant Christ.

8. We can say “Heaven on Earth” and truly mean it. Why is that?

9. Jacob’s vow is not one of unbelief but one of thanksgiving. It is a reminder that God not only wants us to honor him by worshiping him, but also through word, deed, and tithing. For what good is it if we worship God with our mouths but then doing nothing else? It is like a child saying they love their parents but refuse to listen to their parents. Does that child really love his or her parents? No! It is the same with us and God. What we do with our time, money, and talents reflects back to the glory of God.

¹ LW, 5, p.219.