



Where is the House of God Today? **Genesis 28:10-22**

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” (Genesis 28:17—ESV).

On his way to find a wife and escape the wrath of his brother, Jacob stopped near Luz and used a stone pillar for a pillow. That night, he dreamed and saw angels going up and down a ladder between heaven and earth. From above the ladder, the LORD told Jacob that he would be the descendant of Abraham through whom God would fulfill His promises to Abraham and Isaac. Jesus is his ultimate descendant, and we are reminded of what Jesus told Nathanael in John 1:51, when He spoke of himself, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” Ultimately, Jesus fulfilled and still fulfills God’s promise to Jacob to bless all peoples. The LORD also reaffirmed that he and his descendants would receive the land God promised. His descendants would spread throughout the earth. All people on earth would be blessed by him and his offspring. Furthermore, the LORD would always watch over him. From the Bible and throughout history since then, we know God kept all these promises. Jacob was so overwhelmed that he called the place Bethel, which means “the house of God.” Because the kings of Israel set up idols in Bethel, its name was changed to Beth-aven, which meant “the house of nothingness” or “the house of idols.” During the existence of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, the Hebrews went to different places to meet with God. After Jesus the Messiah came and rose from the dead, He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell all His followers. To explain this fact, Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Now, God abides within those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. In John 4:24, we read, “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”