

April 12, 2026

Pastor Andy McClellan

Title: “This Place is Awesome”

Series: Genesis: Beginnings

Text: Genesis 28:10-22

By His grace...

1. God **PURSUES** sinners by **REVEALING** His presence, vv. 10-13 (*see also 11:1-9; 13:3-4; John 1:47-51; 3:13; 10:9; 14:6; Revelation 21:3*).
2. God **PROMISES** what's only **POSSIBLE** by His presence, vv. 13-15 (*see also 12:7-8; 13:14-16; Exodus 33:14-16; Joshua 1:9; Hosea 12:12-13; John 15:5; Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:8*).
3. God **PATIENTLY** endures our **UNWORTHY** responses to His presence, vv. 16-22 (*see also 31:13; 35:1-15; Ex. 3:5-9; Psalm 103:8-10; Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9*).

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. From what we've seen in Gen. 25-28 so far, what kind of person is Jacob? What adjectives might you use to characterize him? Even in spite of Jacob's behavior, how does God show grace to him in ch. 28:10-22? Why is God doing that? What does this tell us about God's grace to those who belong to Him? How have you experienced that grace?
2. Have you ever had an experience or season when you could say (with Jacob in v. 16) “*surely the LORD is in this place?*” What were the circumstances, and what made it stand out to you? How did you respond? While those feelings can be both encouraging and convicting, why is it important to remember promises like Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5? How should that influence how we live even when we don't *feel* God's presence with us?
3. Compare Gen. 28:12-13 with John 1:47-51. How was Jesus pointing to Himself as the “ladder” between heaven and earth? How does this help you better understand statements he makes like in John 10:9 and 14:6? In light of this, why is the Gospel so important for us, and for the unbelievers that God has placed in our lives?
4. What is the connection between the promises of blessing that God makes to Jacob and His promise of His presence with him? Why is God's presence so essential for God's promises in our lives? Use the cross-references in point 2 above to help you. How are we tempted to sometimes claim God's promises, but ignore, neglect or disregard our need for Him to be with us? Is there an area in your life right now that you need to confess doing that?
5. In 28:20–22, Jacob makes an “if–then” vow. What does this “bargain” reveal about his understanding of God, and why is it unworthy of God's grace and presence? How does God show patience with him, and how do we similarly try to bargain with God today? In light of His kindness, spend some time in prayer, confessing sins in this area, and then worshiping Him for the grace He has shown you.

NEXT WEEK: “Lies and a Labor of Love” Genesis 29, Pastor Andy McClellan

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