

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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There are times when Christians sense an INVISIBLE yet indisputable calling to DRAW NEAR TO GOD in WORSHIP.

JACOB:

GENESIS 28:10- 22

Jacob sees a vision of a LADDER of ACCESS TO *ELOHIM*.

אלהים *Elohim* means God, gods, judges, angels.

- The **plural ending** is usually described as a plural of majesty and not intended as a true plural when used of God.
- This is seen in the fact that the noun *elohim* is consistently used with **singular** verb forms and with adjectives and pronouns in the **singular**.

The most distinctive Sumerian architectural form was the *ziggurat*, a towering, multi-tiered edifice that dominated the city's skyline.

- At the top level stood a chapel or shrine believed to house the deity, such as *Anu* or *Marduk*, to whom the building was dedicated.
- Babylon, became the region's greatest city, means the "**gate of the god.**"
 - Marduk's Babylonian ziggurat was named *Etemenanki*, meaning the "house that is the foundation of heaven and earth."

Jacob dreams of a "Ladder" by which supernatural beings ascend to or descend from heaven.

- His vision conveys the ziggurat's religious function, providing a sacred zone at which the divine and human realms intersect.
 - סֵלָם *sul'lam*, trans. Ladder
 - Ascending structure, i.e., a stairway or ladder as a connector between two levels of a structure.
- Jacob's dream envisions a "gateway to heaven."

Jacob was trying to satisfy spiritual hunger for God in MATERIALISM.

GENESIS 32:24-28

Elohim wrestled with Jacob all night.

Three changes occurred in Jacob:

1. Physical change
2. Change in nature
3. Change in name
 - a. יַעֲקֹב *Ya'aqob*, lit. “heel holder” i.e., supplanter.
 - b. יִשְׂרָאֵל *Yisra'el*, (שָׂרָה *sarah*, contend, have power; אֵל *El*, God, mighty one), lit. God prevails or God rules.

CONCLUSION: God had to BREAK Jacob to make Him a worshipper.

MOSES

EXODUS 2:11, 12

Moses had an awareness of being something special to God, but he tried to satisfy that inner urge by SOCIAL ACTION.

EXODUS 3:1-6

יְהוָה *Yahweh* got through to him 40 years later when Moses TOOK OFF HIS SHOES and became a WORSHIPPER.

- *Yahweh* is the proper name of *Elohim*.
 - This name focuses on “sure existence and His relationship to his covenant persons and peoples.” (James Swanson)
 - Masoretic Hebrew text uses *Adonia* (the LORD) as a euphemism.
- “I am the *Elohim* of your father, the *Elohim* of Abraham, the *Elohim* of Isaac, and the ***Elohim of Jacob***.”

CONCLUSION: *Yahweh* was more anxious about Moses being a WORSHIPPER than a Deliverer.