

I. REVIEW/INTRO

- A. Nowhere or now here?
- B. Why have you forsaken me?
 - The disciples went home and hide because they were afraid

Psalm 46:1-3 (NIV) ¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

- C. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

II. JACOB

- A. His name is Jacob
 - Heel-snatcher, deceiver, usurper
 - Sometimes we give up what we want most for what we want now.
 - **Usurper** - a person who takes a position of power or importance illegally or by force
- B. Jacob had become incredibly blessed

Genesis 32:9-10 (NIV) ⁹ Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, Lord, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' ¹⁰ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps.

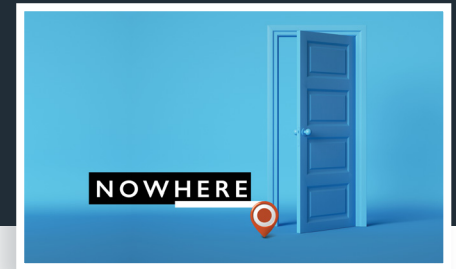
- C. Jacob runs for his life

Gen 28: 10 (NIV) ¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran.

- D. Eden-itis (Human condition)
 - Jacob is pretending to be someone he's not
 - God can't bless who you pretend to be

III. NOW HERE

- A. In the middle of nowhere



Gen 28: 11 (NIV) ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

Gen 28: 12-13 (NIV) ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

Gen 28: 14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Gen 28:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

B. God is here and I didn't even know it

C. God wanted to be known as the God of Jacob

Exodus 3:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.