

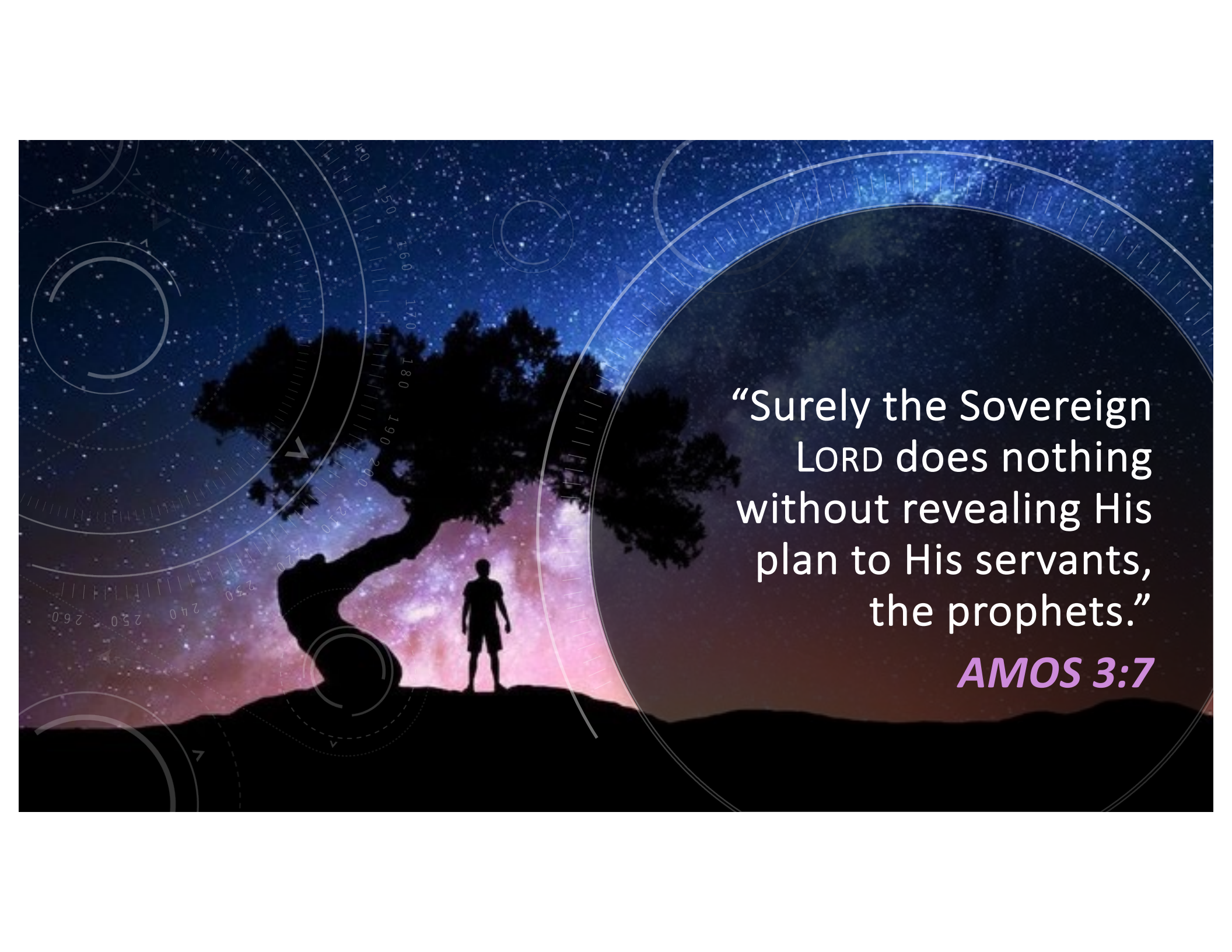
PCF-LA Sermon Slides - Sunday April 21, 2024

PART
2

VISIONS OF THE PROPHETS

A SERMON SERIES FOR
*2024: THE YEAR OF
VISION & PROVISION*

Pastor Courtney Hall



“Surely the Sovereign
LORD does nothing
without revealing His
plan to His servants,
the prophets.”

AMOS 3:7



JACOB'S
VISIONS
IN THE NIGHT

PART 2

THE CALL
THROUGH IT ALL

GENESIS 28, 32, 46

The Call Through It All: JACOB's Visions in the Night

GENESIS 28, 32, 46

Throughout his life, the patriarch **JACOB** had a series of **night visions of the Lord**, from his famous dream as a young man of “Jacob’s Ladder” upon which the angels of heaven ascended & descended at the place he named Bethel (*Gen 28*), to his transformative midlife wrestling match with the Angel of the LORD (*Gen 32*), to his elderly encounter with God as he took his entire family down to Egypt to finally be reunited with his long-lost (and presumed dead) son, Joseph (*Gen 46*).

The Call Through It All: JACOB's Visions in the Night

GENESIS 28, 32, 46

Each of these **visionary encounters** proved pivotal not only to Jacob but also to those of us who follow in his footsteps of faith, a pathway that leads us to heed the Father's **CALL THROUGH IT ALL** into a place of abiding trust in our everlasting God.

The Call Through It All: JACOB'S Visions in the Night

GENESIS 28, 32, 46

1. **God Is In This Place: THE RISE OF WORSHIP** (Ge 28:10-22)

Through subterfuge & cunning, Jacob had stolen his twin brother Esau's birthright, invoking Esau's murderous rage. So Jacob flees home, travelling to the distant estate of his mother's brother, Laban.

2. **I Will Not Let You Go: THE WRESTLING OF FAITH** (Ge 32:22-32)

After years of laboring for his uncle Laban (a man almost as cunning & crafty as himself), Jacob—now married & wealthy—returns home hoping to reconcile with his brother Esau but fearing rejection & worse.

3. **The Call Through It All: THE LINEAGE OF LEGACY** (Ge 46:1-7)

Now an old man nearing the end of his life, Jacob has long mourned the reported death of his long-lost, favored son, Joseph. Yet when he learns that Joseph lives as a powerful official in Egypt, he prepares to relocate his entire family to that distant land, safe from famine but far from home.

The Call Through It All: JACOB's Visions in the Night

GENESIS 28, 32, 46

1. **God Is In This Place: THE RISE OF WORSHIP** (*Ge 28:10-22*)

Through subterfuge & cunning, Jacob had stolen his twin brother Esau's birthright, invoking Esau's murderous rage. So Jacob flees home, travelling to the distant estate of his mother's brother, Laban, where he hopes not just to survive but to thrive & build his fortunes.

1. God Is In This Place: THE RISE OF WORSHIP GENESIS 28:10-22

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba & set out for [his uncle's home in] Harran.
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 & lay down to sleep. 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...ascending & descending on it.** ¹³ Above it stood the LORD, & He said: "I am the LORD, the God of your [grand]father Abraham &...of [your father] Isaac. **I will give you & your descendants the land on which you are lying.** ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, & you will spread out [in all directions]. **All peoples on earth will be blessed through you & your offspring.** ¹⁵ I am with you & will watch over you wherever you go, & I will bring you back to this land. **I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.**"

1. God Is In This Place: THE RISE OF WORSHIP

GENESIS 28:10-22

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "**Surely the LORD is in this place, & I was not aware of it.**" ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! **This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.**" ¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head & **set it up as a pillar & poured oil on top of it.** ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel [*"HOUSE OF GOD"*], though the city used to be called Luz. ²⁰ Then Jacob **made a vow**, saying, "If God will be with me and **will watch over me** on this journey I am taking & **will [provide for me]** ²¹ so that I return safely to my father's household, then **the LORD will be my God** ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be **God's house**, and **of all that You give me I will give You a tenth.**"

REMINDER: CONTINUITY & CONSISTENCY

GENESIS 15:1-21

The covenant in Genesis 15 affirmed God's promises to Abram when He first called him out of his homeland in Genesis 12. It utilized the Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) format of a Royal Land Grant Treaty to establish the components of God's grant to Abraham of three things:

- **PEOPLE** – Abraham shall have many blessed **descendants**.
(Ge 12:2; 15:3-5; *compare 28:14a*)
- **PLACE** – Abraham & his descendants shall receive national **territory**.
(Ge 12:1, 7; 15:7, 16-22; *compare 28:13*)
- **PROVISION** – Abraham & his descendants shall be **blessed** by God.
(Ge 12:2-3; 15:14-16; *compare 28:14b*)

*God reiterates this **PROMISE** in the vision He grants to **Jacob**.*

The Call Through It All: JACOB's Visions in the Night

GENESIS 28, 32, 46

2. **I Will Not Let You Go: THE WRESTLING OF FAITH (Ge 32:22-32)**

After years of laboring for his uncle Laban (a man almost as cunning & crafty as himself), Jacob—now married & wealthy—returns home hoping to reconcile with his brother Esau but fearing rejection & a fate even worse.

2. I Will Not Let You Go: THE WRESTLING OF FAITH GEN 32:22-32

²² That night Jacob got up & took his two wives, his two female servants & his eleven sons & crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.

²⁴ So **Jacob was left alone, & a Man wrestled with him till daybreak.**

²⁵ When the Man saw that He could not overpower him, He touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the Man. ²⁶ Then the Man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, **"I will not let You go unless You bless me."** ²⁷ The Man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the Man said, **"Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God & with humans & have overcome."**

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me Your Name." But He replied, "Why do you ask My Name?" **Then He blessed him there.**

2. I Will Not Let You Go: THE WRESTLING OF FAITH GEN 32:22-32

³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel [*"FACE OF GOD"*], saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, & yet my life was spared." ³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, & **he was limping because of his hip.** ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

2. I Will Not Let You Go: THE WRESTLING OF FAITH GEN 32:22-32

The meaning of Jacob's new name **ISRAEL** (*yisra'el*) involves a variety of available interpretations:

- *The explanation in the text ("because you have struggled with God & with humans & have overcome," v.28b), suggests the name derives from the Hebrew verb sarah, an old & rare verb most likely meaning "to struggle," "to strive," or "to fight."*
- *The name can mean "God will struggle," "May God struggle/fight," or "God prevails." Or it can also mean "he struggles with God" or "he prevails with God." Some translators render it "one who struggles with God & prevails [with God]."*
- *The etymology of **ISRAEL** involves a root referring to **power & strength** that is also extrapolated into terms for **lordliness & rulership**, such that the name can convey "God rules" or "one who rules with God," even "a prince of/with God."*

2. I Will Not Let You Go: THE WRESTLING OF FAITH GEN 32:22-32

Reviewing the content of Genesis 17 from last week's message about Abraham & Sarah, we see again continuity with God's call to Jacob:

- Abraham's **BELIEF** provides foundation to righteous **BEHAVIOR**.
(*Ge 17:1, 9 | Ge 32:26 → Jacob clings to God for blessing.*)
- The **NAME** changes indicate the covenant informs their **IDENTITY**.
(*Gn 17:5, 15 | Ge 32:28 → Jacob receives even more radical renaming.*)
- The **SIGN** of cutting by circumcision symbolizes the affirmation of sacrifices in the Royal Grant Treaty literally at the point of generational transmission in a fashion which sheds blood & removes flesh but also that, rather than ending, actually **gives LIFE**.
(*Ge 17:10-23 | Ge 32:31-32 → Jacob's limp serves as a sacred sign down his line.*)

The Call Through It All: JACOB'S Visions in the Night

GENESIS 28, 32, 46

3. **The Call Through It All: THE LINEAGE OF LEGACY** (*Gn 46:1-7*)

Now an old man nearing the end of his life, Jacob has long mourned the reported death of his long-lost, favored son, Joseph. Yet when he learns that Joseph still lives and is now a powerful official in Egypt, Jacob prepares to relocate his entire family to that distant land, safe from famine but far from home & facing an uncertain future.

3. The Call Through It All: THE LINEAGE OF LEGACY GENESIS 46:1-7

¹ So Israel set out with all that was his, & when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² **And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night & said, "Jacob! Jacob!"** "Here I am," he replied. ³ "I am God, the God of your father," He said. **"Do not be afraid** to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. ⁴ **I will go down to Egypt with you, & I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."**

⁵ Then Jacob left Beersheba, & Israel's sons took their father Jacob & their children & their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him. ⁶ So Jacob & all his offspring went to Egypt, **taking with them their livestock & the possessions they had acquired in Canaan.** ⁷ Jacob brought with him to Egypt his sons & grandsons & his daughters & granddaughters—**all his offspring.**

3. The Call Through It All: THE LINEAGE OF LEGACY GENESIS 46:1-7

Three Simple Steps to a Living a Life of Divine Purpose that Leaves a Legacy of Faithfulness & Fruitfulness:

- **SACRIFICE** to the Father | **WORSHIP**
(Gen 46:1)
- **ATTEND** to the Spirit | **PRAY**
(Gen 46:2)
- **TAKE COURAGE** in the Son | **OBEY**
(Gen 46:3)

*If we will **DO**, this will come **TRUE**: God will **SHINE THROUGH!***



LIVING A
LEGACY

Where is God
calling *ME*?

Wherever it is...
I will die there,
But I *won't* end there.

Wherever I AM called...

...the Son will be with me.

...the Spirit will make me fruitful.

...the Father will bring me

HOME.