



OUR LINK TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

God created man in His own image because He intended for the human family to continually bask in His presence and to enjoy intimacy with Him. In making man, God placed a spirit inside him that would be connected to the Holy Spirit. Linked to the Kingdom of Heaven, man would rule the earth realm according to God's way. But Adam's sin and his instantaneous spiritual death severed this divine connection.

Ever since Adam's sin separated humanity from God's presence, the cry of every human heart has been this: to be reconnected to heaven. The descendants of Adam and Eve would yearn for an Eden home – a colony of heaven on earth. But they were not permitted to go back. They had been disqualified by their own rebellion and were shut out from paradise because of their sinful nature.

Some attempted to build their own version of the lost Eden. Cain founded the first city (**Gen. 4:17**), even though his God-ordained destiny, after murdering his brother, was to be a homeless vagabond. After the flood, Nimrod, the first despot, founded the city of Babylon. In total disregard of God's covenant with Noah, the Babylonians built a tower to provide them safety, in case God broke His promise. They called the place *Bab-el*, "gateway to God," but the Tower of Babel ended in confusion and the separation of the human race into different languages. They were not only disconnected from God, but now they were also isolated from each other.

Later, God would call Abraham to come out of the Babylonian land and culture, so He could fulfill His covenant to restore the human race to their link to His heavenly kingdom. God promised him a land as his inheritance and a "seed" who would bless all the nations. Abraham moved out in faith, believing that there was an Eden home for his family – a city with eternal foundations, whose builder and maker is God (**Heb. 11:10**).

But the faith journey of Abraham's family would have many stops and detours. So, for a while, it looked like they would never get to the promised homeland. His descendants gave up its possession because of their lack of faith in God's ways. Jacob, the second son of Isaac, would deceive his elder brother and his father to gain the birthright to the land. But his deceitful act would cause him to flee for his life, thus, losing possession of the land. Jacob would become

homeless and his family would be strangers in a foreign land for many generations.

In spite of all these, God remained faithful to His covenant. He renewed His covenant with Jacob at his lowest point of his young life – when he felt like a homeless orphan – after he left the promised land. At a lonely place, far from home, Jacob dreamed about a stairway that connected earth to heaven, on which angels went up and down. At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and He said to Jacob, "I'm the God of Abraham and your father, Isaac. I'm making the same promise that I made to Abraham to you. I will always be with you wherever you go. I will not leave you until I have fulfilled all my promises to you." (**Gen. 28:10-15**) Jacob called the place *Bethel* (the house of God).

Much later on, Jesus would mention Jacob's dream when He told Nathaniel, "*I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.*" (**John 1:51**) The stairway that connects earth to heaven is Jesus Christ. With His completed ministry, He has opened the stairway to the Kingdom of God. Every person who longs for an Eden home can now come back to God. God's Son has come and the Kingdom of Heaven is now open for business on earth (**Matt. 4:17**).

Christ restored man's lost link to heaven. Every sinner who believes in Jesus and accepts Him as Savior and Lord is given a new spirit that is connected to the Holy Spirit (**John 3:5-6**). Intimacy with God is possible again. With the Holy Spirit inside Him, man is linked to heaven once again. He can now begin to exercise heaven's dominion authority on earth. He can bring heaven down to earth in his lifework, witness and ministry.

But for now, our Eden home is not yet a physical place. That will happen when Jesus returns to make both physical man and earth new. So, our longing for an eternal city that is connected to heaven is really satisfied by a person, rather than a physical place. Christ is our connecting link to the Kingdom of Heaven. It is God's will and pleasure to restore us to our place in His Kingdom (**Luke 12:32**). He has breathed into us the Holy Spirit (**John 20:21-22**), so we can be intimate with God once again. Linked to heaven, we can now walk into our God-given destiny.