

Genesis 28ch: 12 v. (Hymn 1-157- 2-153- 3-163.)

Among the writings of a distinguished philosopher, we shall find an essay on the Subject of procuring pleasant and romantic dreams, & when they depend on physical Causes, his views are sensible & interesting -

But there are some dreams of divine origin & of a supernatural ^{character,} designed to indicate the purposes of God in regard to individuals & whole nations of people. The history of Jacob & Esau is a familiar story of the Old Testament. While these twin brothers remained at their father's house, Esau threatened the life of Jacob - -

In order to escape the vengeance of his brother, he set out upon a long journey to Padan Aram - -

The first day of his journey, he travelled to the City of Luz, a distance of about 50 Miles - The gates of the City being shut, he laid himself down upon the cold earth - and while balmy sleep poured its soft influence upon his senses, his thoughts were absorbed with the sublime pictures of his vision, & the consoling truths which they impressed upon his mind -

While ~~absorbed~~ locked in the arms of slumber, he saw in his vision, a strange mysterious ladder, with its feet resting upon the earth - -

There are several important truths indicated by this ^{vision},
to which I shall invite your serious and prayerful atten-
tion for a short space of time

1. In the first place, it is agreed among all commentators,
that the ladder in this vision, was intended as a type or symbol
of Jesus Christ, as the Great Mediator - He is evidently the
grand connecting medium between heaven & earth -

2. In the next place, the two sides of this ladder, will fur-
-nish a striking emblem of the two-fold character of Christ
as God & Man united in the same person.

The scriptures plainly teach, the Godhead & Manhood of Christ, as
strangely & mysteriously united in the same person - that He was
very God & very man - Behold for instance, the blessed Saviour
born in Bethlehem - born of a woman & cradled in a manger -

But mark the circumstances of grandeur which indicated
his divinity - a strange mysterious star stood over the place
of his birth, while the angelic hosts sang his natal song to the
wakeful shepherds on the plain.

At the age of 12 years we find him in the Jewish temple
in the character of a little boy, & then confounding the Priests and
the lawyers, with his questions & replies -

When he approached the barren fig-tree, he hungered like a man,
and then with a simple word, He withered its foliage with all the
authority of a God.

Having wrought a stupendous miracle at Lystra, he went up on a mountain to pray, like a man, but in the 4th watch of the night, he approached his disciples, walking upon the sea like a God.

See Him on the ~~x~~, he bleeds & suffers like a man, and then opens the gates of Paradise to the penitent thief like a God - Follow him to the Sepulchre & see him cold, in death like a man, but on the morning of the third day, he shook off his grave clothes, & came forth like a God conspired. After his resurrection he ate with his disciples as a man, and then led them out to Bethany, pronounced his blessing upon them, and ascended to heaven like a God - Hence said the Psalmist, God is gone up with a shout.

3. The rounds in this ladder, should teach us the progressive nature of our holy religion - There is nothing in nature, in providence or grace, that gains its perfection all of a sudden - We see the babe - the blade of corn - the little leaven - God will not despise the day of small things - - -

There are several other points of great importance involved in this subject - such as a special Providence, the faithfulness of God, the immortality of the soul, but upon these, I cannot dwell - I can only call your attention to the ministry of angels to God's people - - -

facets start