

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Based on Genesis 28:10-22 (NRSV)

Version with one speaker

Play instrumental music in the harmonic structure of We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder under the Scripture reading (but not a recognizable tune)

ONE VOICE

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. *Music stops so the following line and verse are in silence*

And he dreamed...

CHOIR OR SOLOIST:

We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder, verse 1 a cappella

We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
Soldiers of the cross.

Instrumental music continues under the Scripture reading.

ONE VOICE:

Jacob dreamed there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

CHOIR OR SOLOIST:

We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder, verse 2 with instrumental support

Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Soldiers of the cross.

Instrumentalist transitions to the chorus of Surely the Presence of the Lord during the Scripture reading.

ONE VOICE

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

CHOIR OR SOLOIST:

Surely the Presence of the Lord, chorus, with instrumental support

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel His mighty power and His grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

Instrumental music continues under the Scripture reading.

ONE VOICE

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you."

ALL SINGING:

Surely the Presence of the Lord, chorus, with instrumental support

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel His mighty power and His grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

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We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder, traditional Afro-American Spiritual. *United Methodist Hymnal* #418.

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