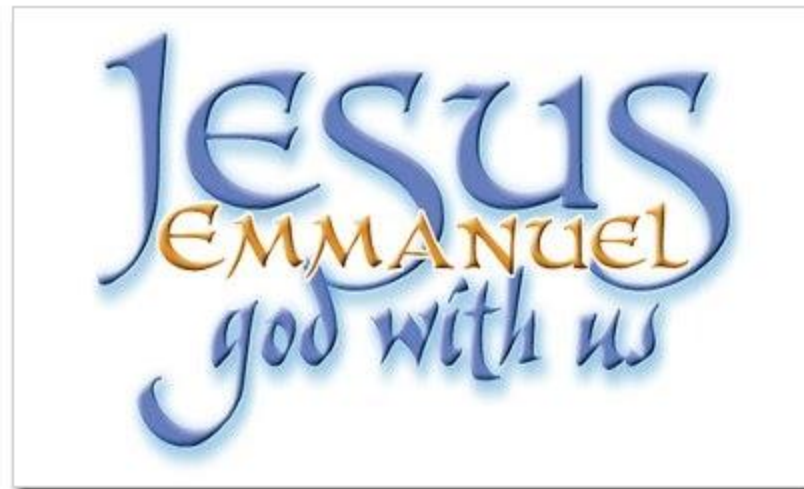




**Free Chapel**  
**Alberton AGF**



In this Season  
God is Here!





**Emmanuel or Imanu'el,**

**"God is with us"**

Is a symbolic name which appears in chapters 7 and 8 of the Book of Isaiah as part of a prophecy assuring king Ahaz of Judah of God's protection against enemy kings;

It is also quoted in the Gospel of Matthew as a sign verifying the divine status of Jesus.



## Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

*<sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” which means “God with us”.*

Behold,  
I am  
with you  
always.

Matthew 28: 20

David says in his Psalm:



## Psalm 139:7-12 (NIV)

*<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?*

*Where can I flee from your presence?*

*<sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, **you are there**;*

*if I make my bed in the depths, **you are there.***

*<sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,*

*if I settle on the far side of the sea,*

*<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,*

*your right hand will hold me fast.*

*<sup>11</sup> If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me*

*and the light become night around me,”*

*<sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;*

*the night will shine like the day,*

*for darkness is as light to you.*





## **God is always with us.**

- Because He is an infinite Spirit.
- He is not restricted to being in one location at a time.
- He fills every inch of space throughout the universe with all His wonderful personal attributes.

**Although God is distinct from His creation all His creation exists within Him.**

In Acts 17:28 we are told,

**Acts 17:28 (NIV)**

*<sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*



But we, like Jacob, **FORGET** or choose to ignore that **God is here** and we live our life as if He is only available on Sundays or when we need Him.



## Genesis 27

Esau the older

Jacob the younger

Because Esau was older he was to be blessed with his birthright from his father Isaac.

**BUT!**

READ

# Genesis 28 (NIV)

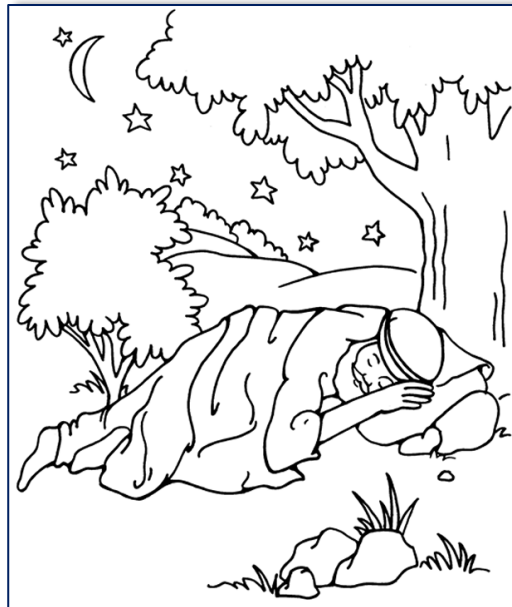
READ Verses 1-9



## Genesis 28:10-11 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran.

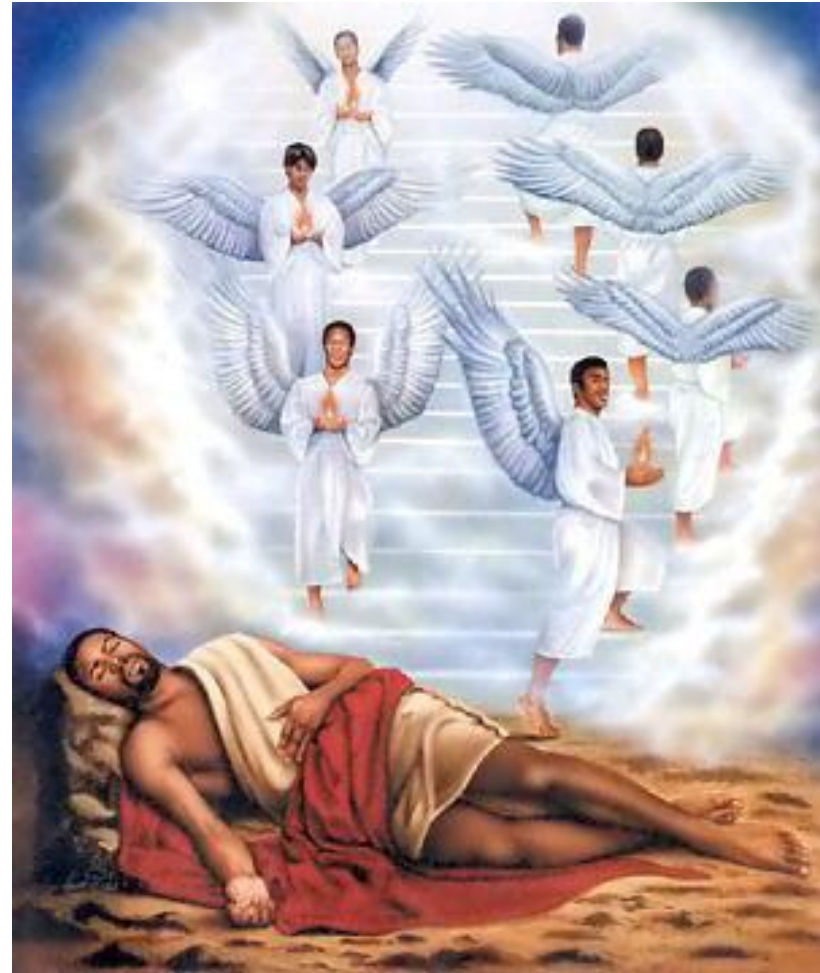
<sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.





## Genesis 28:12-13 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.



**Gods promise to Jacob.**

**Genesis 28:14-15 (NIV)**

God Promised!



<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.”

## Genesis 28:16-17 (NIV)



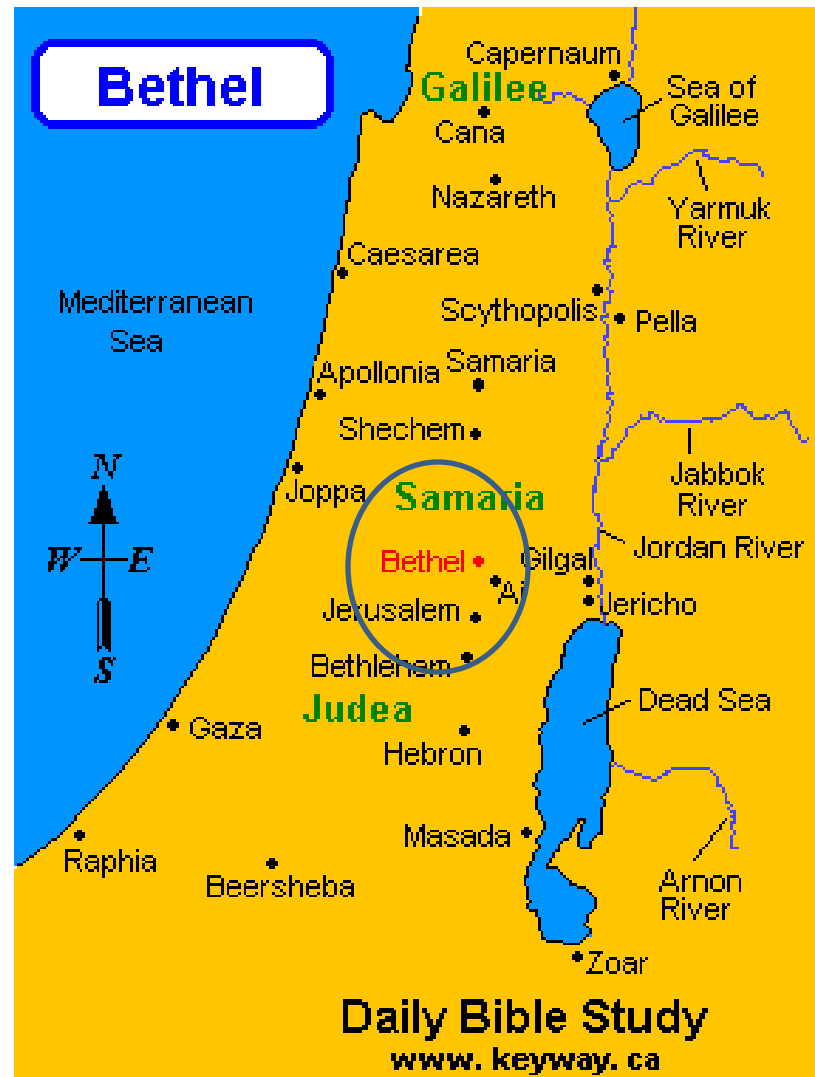
<sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, **“Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”** <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, **“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”**



# Genesis 28:18-19 (NIV)



<sup>18</sup> Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place **Bethel**, though the city used to be called Luz.





## Genesis 28:20-22 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob **made a vow**, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear <sup>21</sup> so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the LORD will be my God <sup>22</sup> 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.**”



This is the Jacob who **stole his brother's birthright** and was now **fleeing for his life under the guise** of visiting extended family to seek a wife. **Not exactly abiding in God's presence at this point in his life, was he?**

Think about this – how does it relate to you?

- **Our sin causing us to flee and make all sorts of excuses.**
- **I confess to be a Christian BUT I AM not exactly abiding in God's presence.**



God had been with Jacob all along, and Jacob hadn't known it. Or lived like it. But when he recognized God, he worshipped.

Nancy Pearcey's book, *Total Truth*:

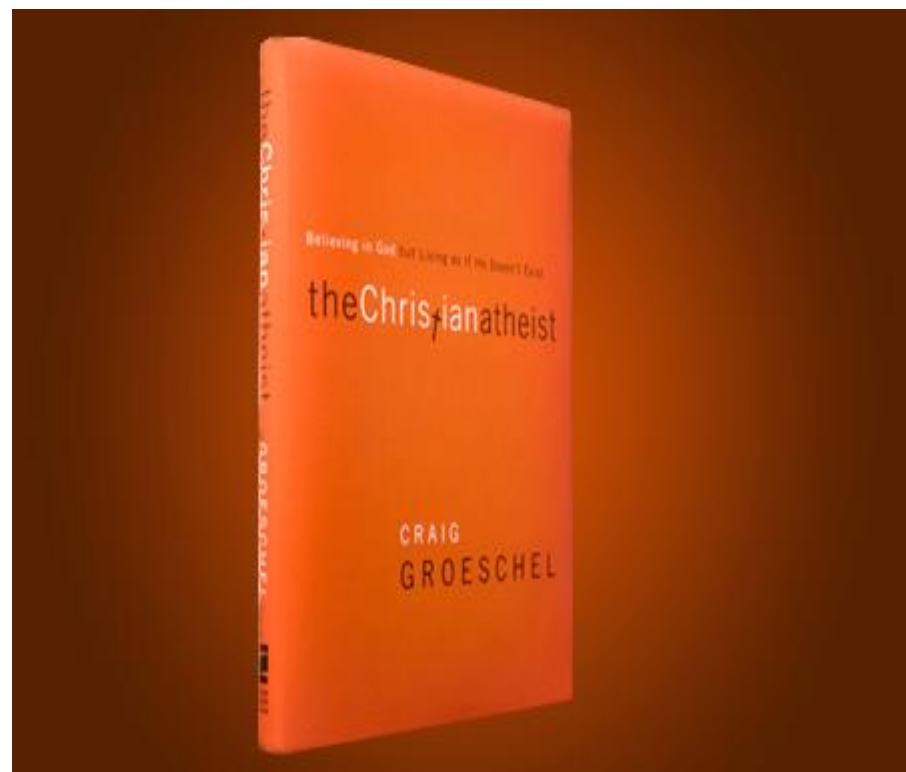
“Sadly, many Christians ... give cognitive assent to the great truths of Scripture but they make their practical, day-to-day decisions based only on what they can see, hear, measure, and calculate.”

**LEAVING GOD OUT.**



With reference to his book *The Christian Atheist*, **Craig Groeschel** asks this question on his website:

***“Do you live your life as if God is in the room, or do you assume He’s not paying attention?”***

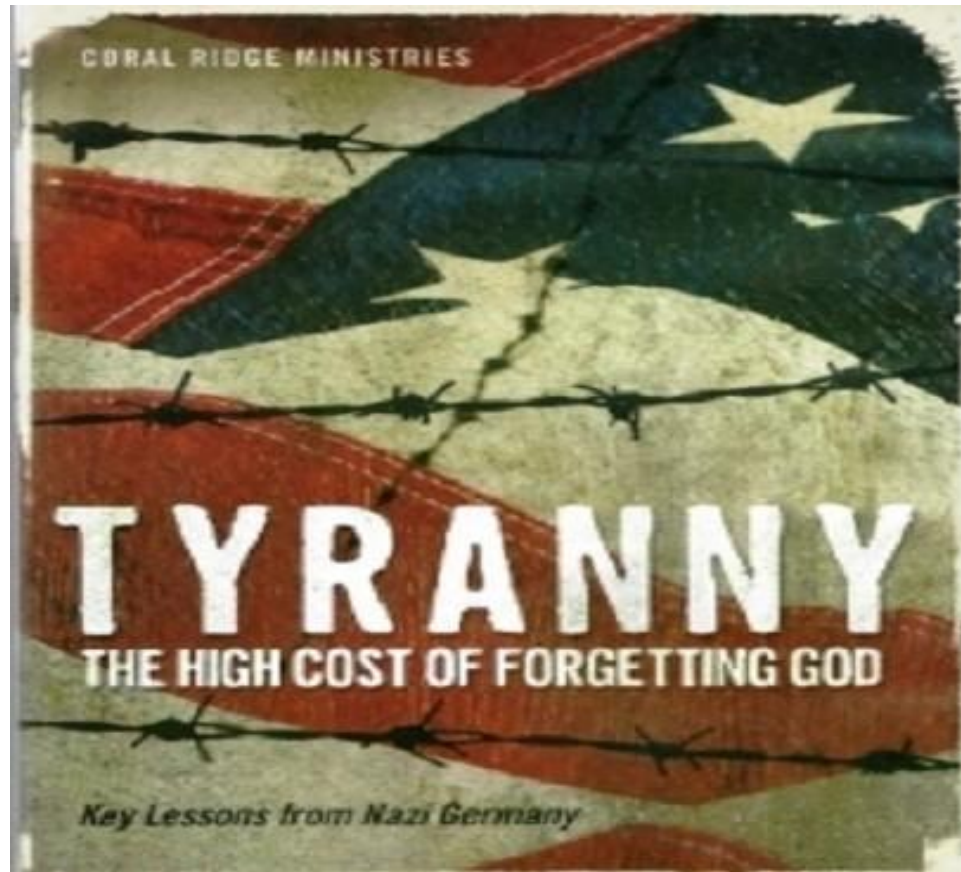






## Practically:

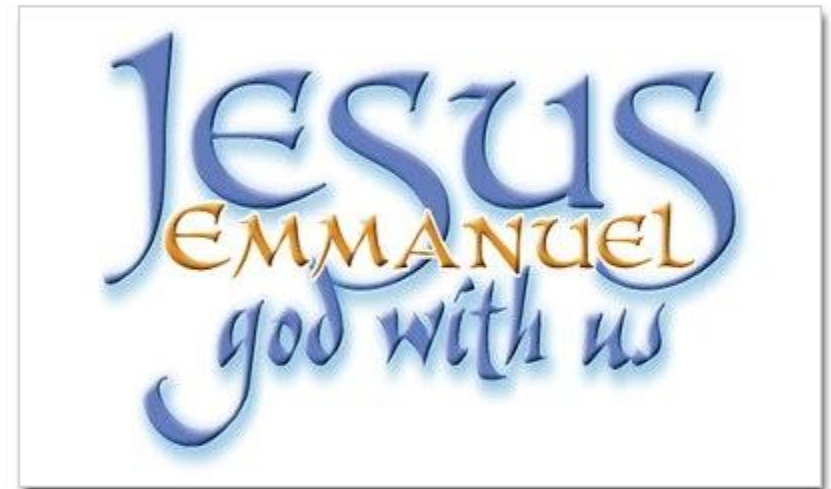
It's so easy to forget, or to get distracted. If we're not **vigilant, intentional, and reminding ourselves to rely on God**, we can act as if we're on our own.





***Our Prayer should be:***

*You said You'd never leave nor forsake us and yet we sometimes live like you've set us loose. Forgive us for being so easily distracted by life, and remind us of Your nearness. Help us learn to live daily in Your presence, confident in You and following Your leading.*





Something for the fridge!

Look **BACK** and thank God  
Look **FORWARD** and trust God  
Look **AROUND** and praise God  
Look **WITHIN** and find God.



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## **References / Credits**

1. [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)
- 2.

## Pictures

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