

# John 1:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

## Analysis

Jesus unveils cosmic vision: 'Ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.' This alludes to Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28:12), where Jacob saw angels ascending and descending on a ladder connecting heaven and earth. Jesus declares Himself the true ladder—the connection between divine and human realms. In Him, heaven opens and communion between God and humanity is restored. The title 'Son of man' emphasizes His humanity while Jacob's ladder imagery emphasizes His cosmic significance.

## Historical Context

Jacob's vision at Bethel established that location as a 'gate of heaven.' Jesus surpasses the significance of any location—He Himself is the meeting place of heaven and earth. Early Christians understood Jesus as the true Temple, the true Bethel. All access to God comes through Him (John 14:6).

## Related Passages

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus as the 'ladder' between heaven and earth transform our understanding of access to God?
2. What does this vision teach about Christ's role as mediator between God and humanity?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ λέγω αὐτῷ ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ἀπ' ἄρτι  
And I say unto him Verily Verily I say unto you Hereafter G737  
G2532 G3004 G846 G281 G281 G3004 G5213 G575

ὄψεσθε τὸν οὐρανὸν ἀνεῳγότα καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ  
ye shall see G3588 heaven open And G3588 the angels G3588  
G3700 G3772 G455 G2532 G32

θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ καταβαίνοντας ἐπὶ τὸν υἱὸν  
of God ascending And descending upon G3588 the Son G5207  
G2316 G305 G2532 G2597 G1909 G3588 G5207

τοῦ ἀνθρώπου  
G3588 of man G444

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 28:12** (References God): And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

**Acts 7:56** (References God): And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

**Luke 22:43** (Parallel theme): And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

**Mark 14:62** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

**Mark 1:10** (Parallel theme): And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

**Matthew 3:16** (References God): And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

**Ezekiel 1:1** (References God): Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

**Acts 10:11** (Parallel theme): And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

**Luke 2:13** (References God): And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

**Luke 3:21** (Parallel theme): Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,