

## Last Week's Sermon Summary

『The Stairway Connecting Heaven and Earth』 Pastor Takaaki Inoue  
Genesis 28:10-17, John 1:48-51

### ❶ 【There are many plans in a person's heart, but only the Lord's will is fulfilled】

Isaac had twin sons named Esau and Jacob. Esau was the older brother; Jacob the younger. When he emerged from his mother's womb, he grasped his brother's heel, so he was named Jacob. That's why he was called Jacob, meaning "heel-taker." He was a competitive, prideful person who liked to trip others up. As twins, their faces were similar, but their personalities were completely different. The older brother became a strong hunter; while the younger was a gentle soul, a mama's boy who worked around the house. Their father loved the strong older brother; while their mother favored the younger. Though Jacob was gentle, he harbored intense rivalry toward his brother. Once, when his older brother returned exhausted from hunting and craved the stew Jacob was cooking, he bluntly demanded, "First, give me your birthright" (Genesis 25:31). Esau replied, "The birthright means nothing to me," and traded his rights for the stew. Esau seemed to value earthly things more, disregarding God's blessing. Later, their father Isaac grew old and lost his sight. He called his eldest son Esau to inherit the inheritance and sent him out hunting. While Esau was gone, his younger brother Jacob disguised himself as Esau, deceived their blind father; and stole the inheritance. Their mother had advised Jacob to do this. Reading this part of the story, it's clear there were problems in this family. Even before the twins were born, God had foretold, "The older will serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23). Yet the father ignored God's will, trying to bless the elder son based on his own preference, while the

mother schemed to get the blessing for the younger son. Ultimately, the deception is exposed, the brothers hate each other; and the couple's trust is destroyed. Proverbs 19:21 states, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that will stand." This teaches that when humans cannot trust God and try to advance things through their own schemes, they only create chaos. In the end, only God's purpose prevails.

### ❷ 【A dream of stairs reaching to the sky】

Jacob, unable to stay at home any longer; fled to his uncle Laban in Haran. For the first time, the once-spoiled Jacob was separated from his parents and embarked on a long journey alone. With no mother to protect him and no one to rely on, it must have been a very lonely journey. When he reached a certain place, the sun had set, so he decided to camp there for the night. He laid his head on a stone and fell asleep, and he had a dream. "A stairway reached from the earth to heaven, with angels of God ascending and descending on it." (Genesis 28:12) What did this mean? When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it ... How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven. Yes, this is the gate of heaven." (28:17) Judging from his words, the stairway to heaven was for God to descend to earth. He was astonished to realize he was in the place closest to heaven, closest to God, standing before the gate of God's house. He had seen God's house in his dream. When people are among others, they may never encounter God. But when they are alone, in the wilderness of life, they meet God.

❸ 【Who are the people who inherit blessings?】 Moreover, he heard God standing beside him and speaking. "I am the God of your father Abraham, the God of Isaac, the Lord. I will give this land where you are lying to you and your descendants. Your ↗

# Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan

Miyakojima Church

Mission Established December 1, 1957

Church Established December 2, 2001

2-6-17 Miyuki-cho, Miyakojima-ku, Osaka 534-0012

TEL06-6922-1120 FAX06-6922-1120

E-mail address: [miyakoch@eagle.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:miyakoch@eagle.ocn.ne.jp)

HomepageAddress: <https://miyakojima-church1.com>

Postal transfer 00920-4-1442 Japan Miyakojima

Mission Senior

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

August 31, 2025 No. 1835



《The Battle Against the Amalekites》

## Miyakojima Church's 2025 Mission Policy

**Motto :** "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

**Scripture :** " The toil of those who build houses is in vain, unless the Lord Himself builds them " ( Psalm 127:1)

### Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 We value the fellowship of believers.
- 4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.