

JESUS - THE GATE OF HEAVEN

Christ Prefigured in the OT

Jacob's Dream

- ***The Setting***

- Jacob is on a journey from Beersheba to Haran.



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

MESOPOTAMIA

ASSYRIA

BABYLONIA

Bethel
Beersheba

Haran

51.9 miles from Beersheba to Bethel, 402.85 miles from Bethel to Haran.
Total Distance 454.75 miles according to Google maps.

Jacob's Dream

□ *The Setting*

- Jacob is on a journey from Beersheba to Haran.
- He comes to a place (emphasized 3x).
- He takes a stone and places it at his head-place.



Jacob's Dream

□ *The Dream*

- **A Structure:** Behold a ladder set on the earth with its top [head] reaching to heaven
 - The Hebrew word for “ladder” is *sullam* and this is the only occurrence of the word in all of Scripture. Scholars disagree as to what he saw.







Jacob's Dream

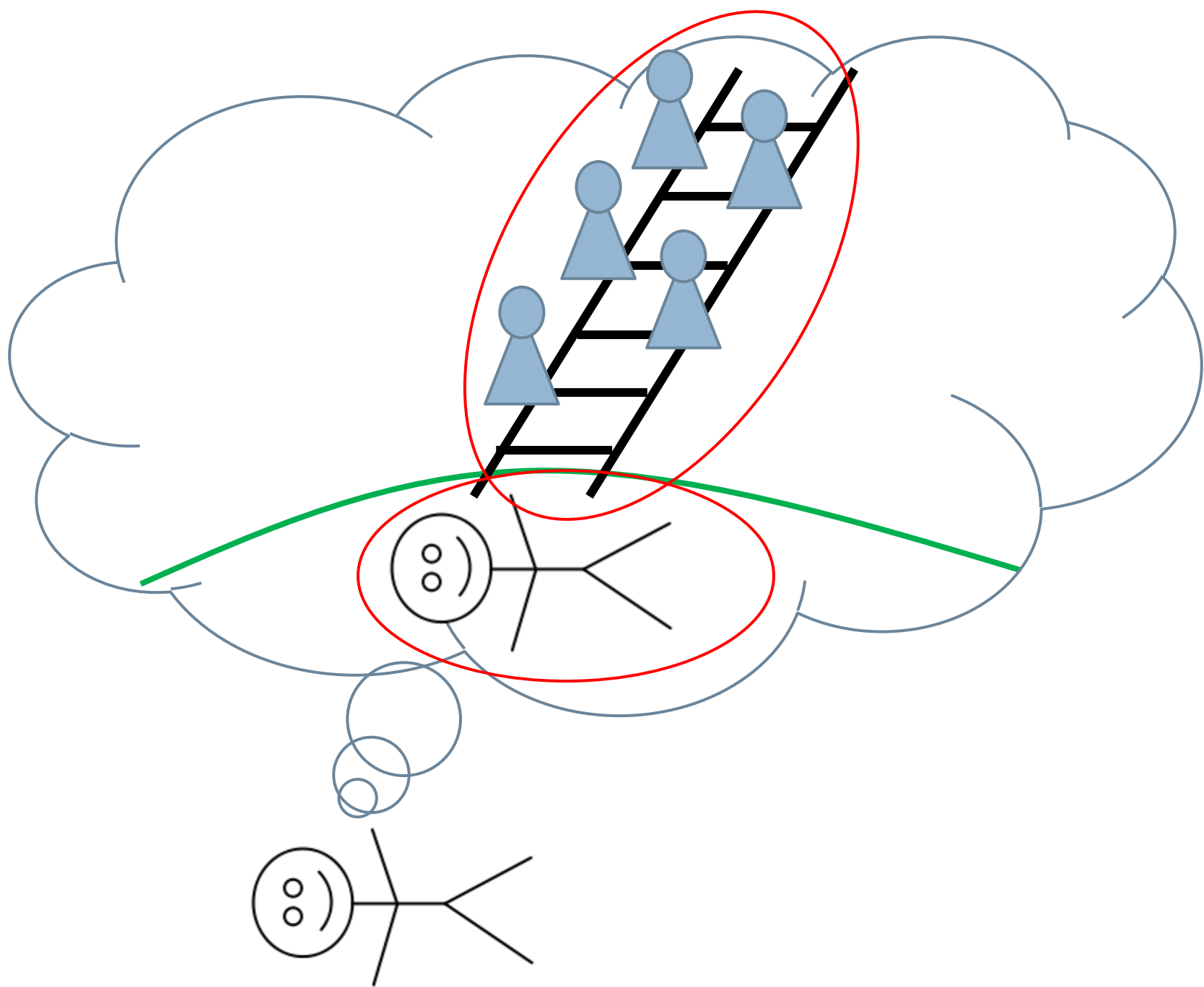
□ *The Dream*

- **A Structure:** Behold a ladder set on the earth with its top [head] reaching to heaven
 - The Hebrew word for “ladder” is *sullam* and this is the only occurrence of the word in all of Scripture. Scholars disagree as to what he saw.
 - What is important is that the structure links earth with heaven. Here is a place where there is true access to God.

Jacob's Dream

□ *The Dream*

- **Action:** Behold the angels of God were ascending and descending on it or down to him.
 - Here again there is a certain ambiguity in the text.
 - Ascending/descending on it= The ladder
 - Ascending/descending down to him= Jacob



Jacob's Dream

□ *The Dream*

- ▣ The angels going up and down are somewhat mysterious. What do they represent?
 - The ladder and angels add to the glory and wonder of God's revelation.
 - Angels, in Genesis, deliver messages from God (Hagar), protect God's people from harm (Lot), and lead and assist God's people in the accomplishing of God's will (Abraham's servant seeking a wife for Isaac).
 - **Conclusion:** Perhaps we can safely infer that the angelic activity serves both to add to the glory and authenticity of the vision as well as to assure Jacob of God's protection and assistance.

Jacob's Dream

□ *The Dream*

- **A Message:** Behold the Lord stood above it/him and said...
 - In terms of sheer length, God's message to Jacob is clearly the focal point of the dream.
 - He promises three things to Jacob and his offspring more generally and three to Jacob specifically.
 - **General:** Promise of a land
 - **General:** Promise of numerous descendants, so numerous that they will spread out over the whole earth.
 - **General:** Promise of blessing for the whole earth
 - **Specific:** Promise of God's abiding presence.
 - **Specific:** Promise of God's protection.
 - **Specific:** Promise of a return to the land.

Jacob's Dream

□ *Jacob's Response*

- **Surprise:** Surely the Lord is in this place
- **Fear:** Here is a place where there is access to God.
- **Consecration:** We don't exactly know the significance of Jacob setting up the stone and pouring oil on its top but it is likely a religious act denoting consecration to the Lord (Gen. 31:13).
- **Vow:** Even though Jacob's response seems tainted by his conniving and manipulative character (he tries to bargain with God), yet he did understand that God's revelation of Himself placed a certain demand upon his life.

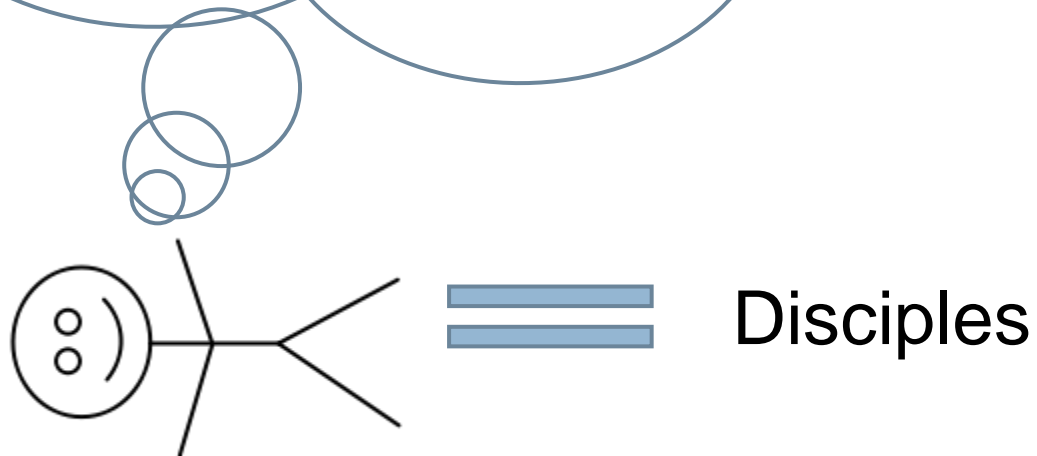
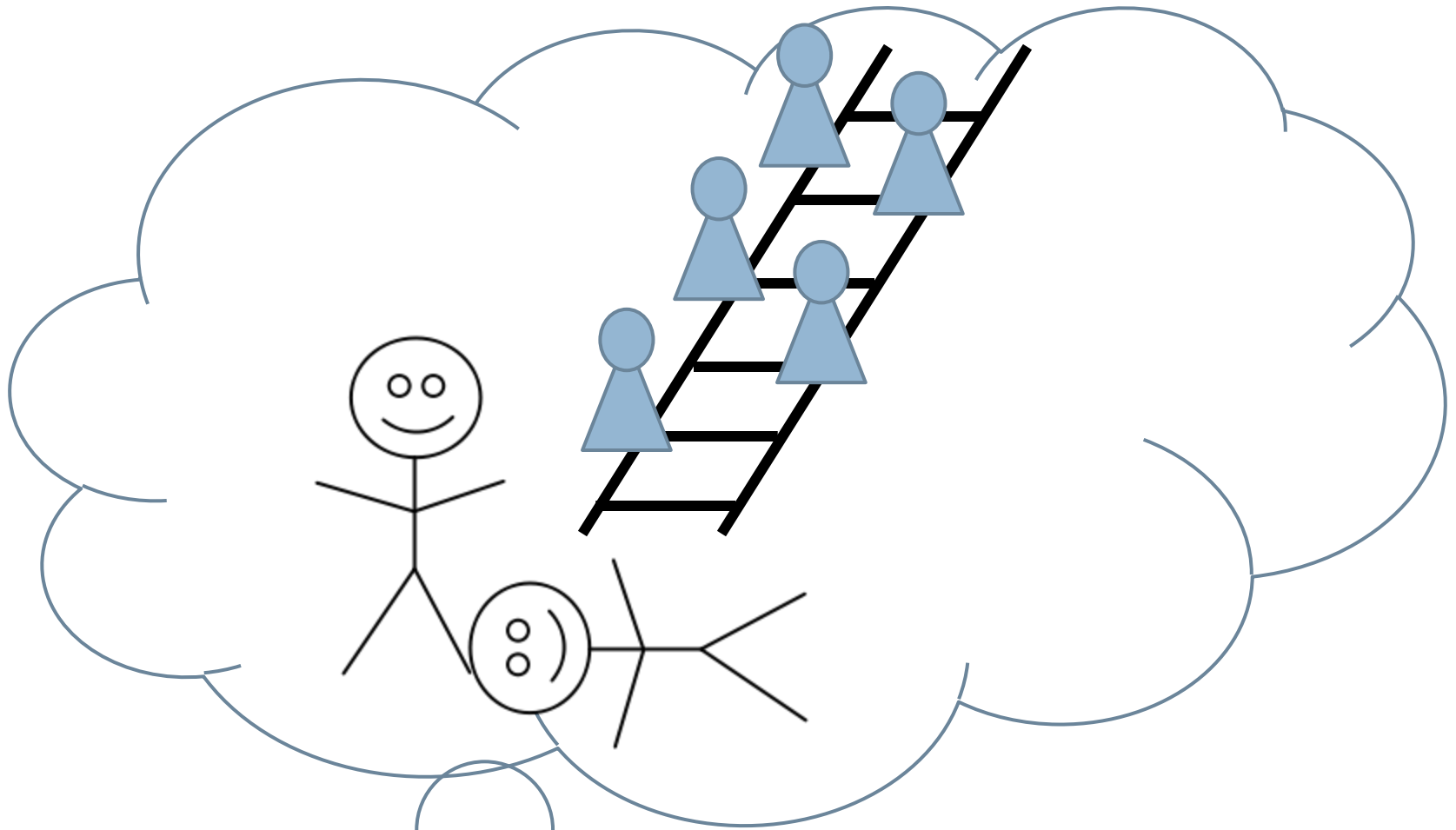
Jacob's Dream

□ *Point of the Story*

- Jacob is the recipient of the Abrahamic covenant and the one through whom God will fulfill his promises.
- As such, Jacob enjoys God's special blessing and assistance symbolized by the busy traffic of God's ministering angels between heaven and Jacob on earth.
- Both the text and Jacob himself link the divine vision, presence, and communication with the geographic location Bethel.
- God's redemptive promises are not earned but graciously given by a covenant-keeping God. It is God who initiates and pursues a saving relationship with undeserving people.

Typology: Jacob's Dream and Jesus

- ***Recipient(s) of the Dream:***
 - **Correspondence:**
 - Who sees the dream in Genesis? Jacob. Who else is invited to observe the dream? The reader.
 - Who sees the antitype of the dream in John = The disciples. Who else is invited to observe the antitype? All true disciples.



Typology: Jacob's Dream and Jesus

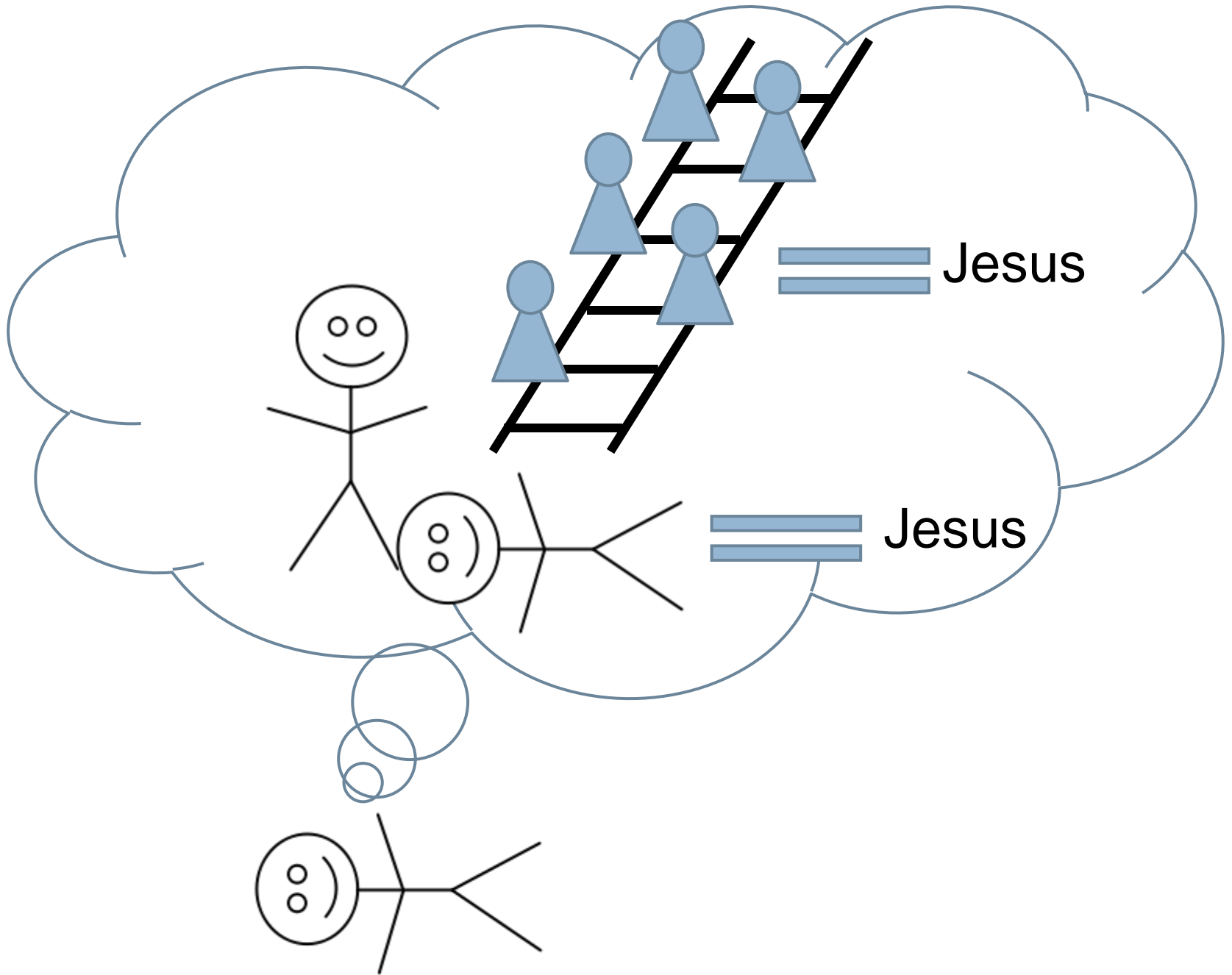
- ***Recipient(s) of the Dream:***
 - ▣ **Significance:**
 - God's revelation concerning his Son is not given on the basis of human merit or demerit.
 - We are encouraged to expect a revelation from God.
 - ▣ **Escalation:** Jacob saw the vision in a dream, the disciples will see it in real life displayed in the person of Jesus.

Typology: Jacob's Dream and Jesus

□ *The Dream Itself:*

□ **Correspondence:**

- Genesis = Angels ascend /descend on the ladder **or** down to Jacob
- John = Angels ascend/descend on Jesus
- Does Jesus correspond to the ladder or Jacob?



== Jesus

== Jesus

Typology: Jacob's Dream and Jesus

□ *The Dream Itself:*

□ **Significance:**

- **Jesus=Ladder:** Jesus is the means by which salvation blessings can flow from heaven to mankind.
- **Jesus=Jacob:** Jesus is the new and greater Jacob. He is God's chosen vessel through whom he will accomplish his covenant promises.
- **Escalation:** The covenant with Abraham which was renewed with Jacob will be fulfilled in Jesus.

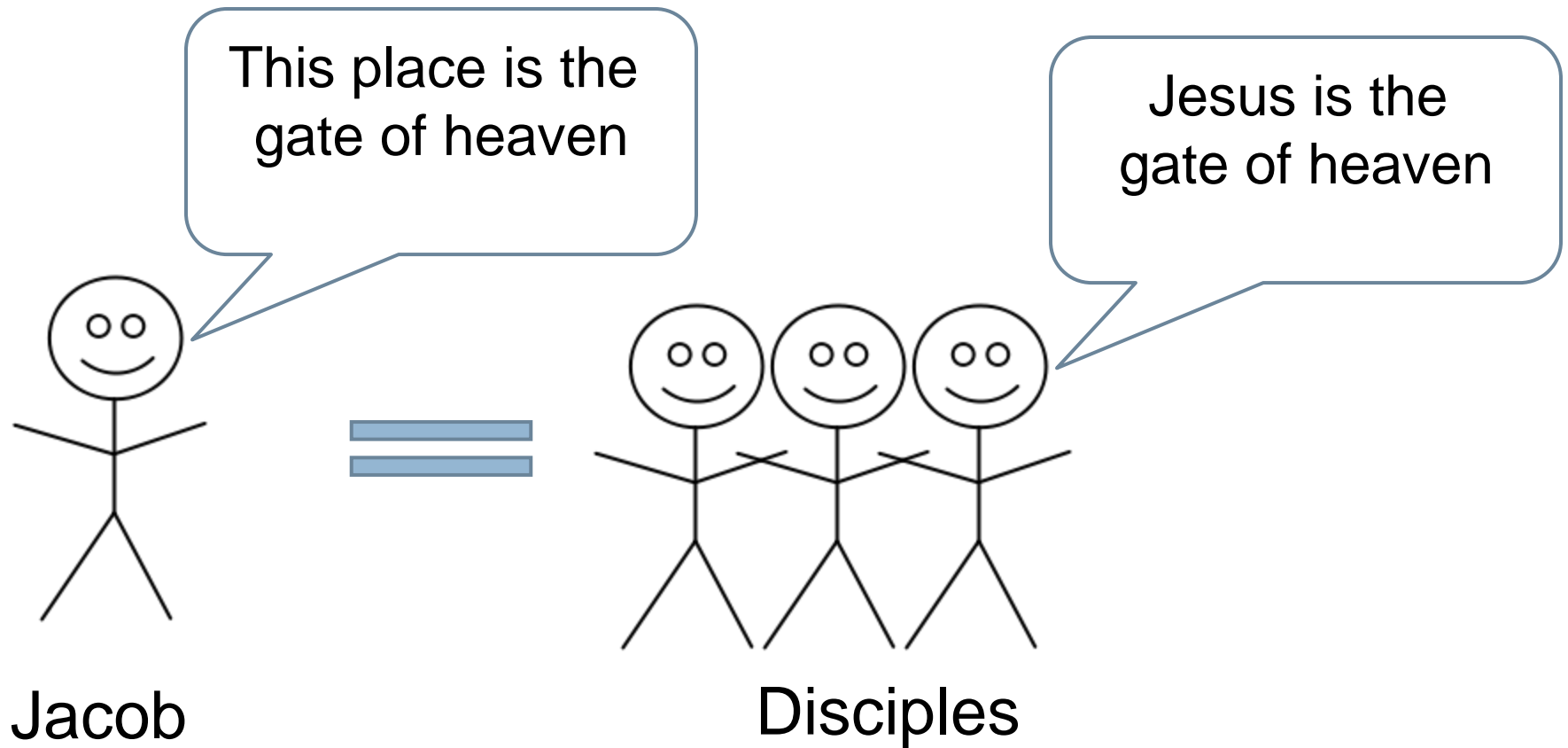
Typology: Jacob's Dream and Jesus

□ ***Response to the Dream:***

□ **Correspondence:**

- Genesis: Jacob concluded, “How awesome is this place! This is the house of God, the gate of heaven.”
- John: The disciples will discover, “How awesome is Jesus, the Son of God. He is none other than the house of God, and He is the gate of heaven.”

Response:



Typology: Jacob's Dream and Jesus

- ***Response to the Dream:***
 - **Significance:** The distance that separates me from the presence of God is not a geographical distance but rather a relational distance, the distance that lies between me and the person of Jesus Christ.