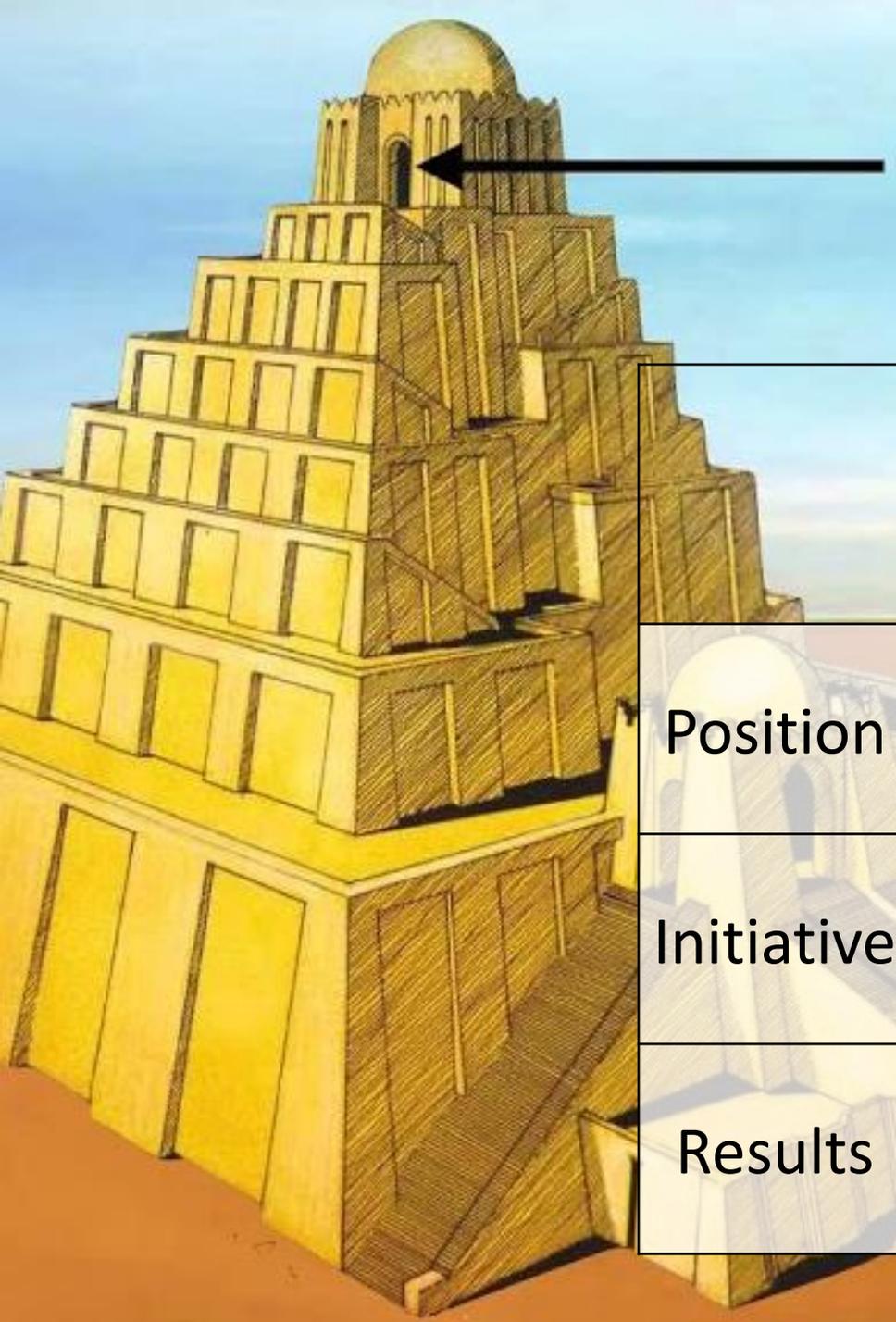


THE STORY OF  
JACOB



Genesis 27:41 – 28:22



← “Bab-El,” the “Gate of God”

	Babel’s Portal <i>Gen. 11: 4, 8</i>	Jacob’s Portal <i>Gen. 28:12, 14</i>
Position	“a tower that <b>reaches to the heavens.</b> ”	“a stairway... <b>reaching to heaven.</b> ”
Initiative	“ <b>let us build...</b> a tower”	“a stairway <b>resting on earth</b> ”
Results	“the LORD <b>scattered</b> them”	“Your descendants... will <b>spread out</b> ”



## God Three Promises to the Exile:

- *“I am with you”* → accompaniment
- *“I will watch over you”* → protection
- *“I will bring you back”* → homecoming

# Three Thoughts on Jacob's Portal to Heaven:

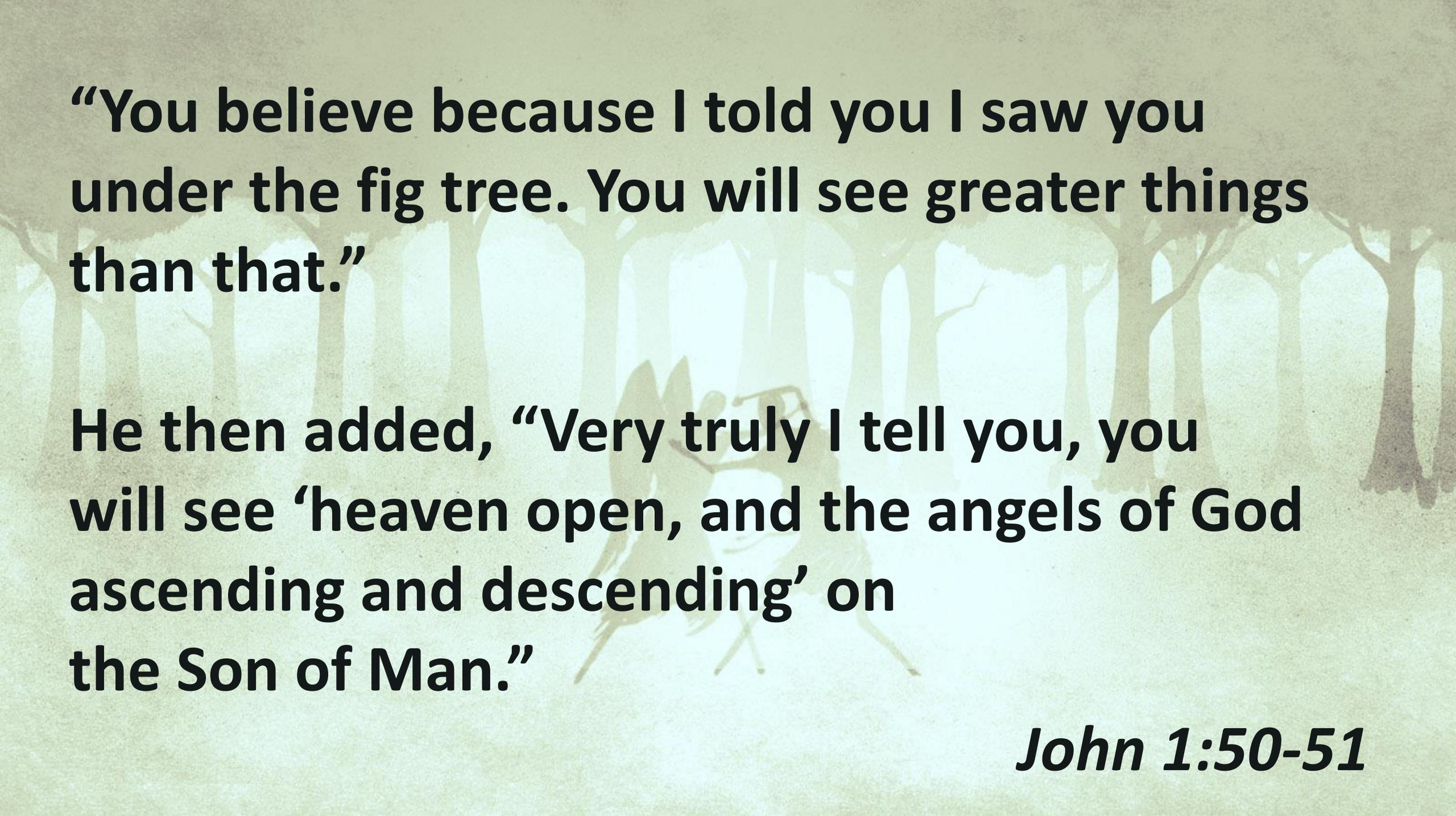
1. Heaven's portal is God's initiative
2. Heaven's portal serves God and people
3. Heaven's portal invites our response





## Jacob's Response:

- *Recognition* → God is here!
- *Marking* → Anointed pillar
- *Vow to follow* → The LORD will be my God



**“You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”**

**He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending’ on the Son of Man.”**

***John 1:50-51***



## God Three Promises to the Exile:

- Heaven's portal can happen any place



## God Three Promises to the Exile:

- Heaven's portal can happen any place
- Weakness is especially a portal



## God Three Promises to the Exile:

- Heaven's portal can happen any place
- Weakness is especially a portal
- Responding will be messy