

# NORTH HILLS NOTES

## OUR GREAT GOD

### “Thin Spaces”

July 23 2011

*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.”*

Psalm 90:1 (NRSV)

*“O Lord, you have always been our home.”* Psalm 90:1 (GNB)

- We will not share a home with God; he is our home, and always has been.
- “Thin spaces” are not places we go to be with God; they are places inside of us that we open up to God.
- *“Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.’”* (Genesis 28:16)
- Being at home with God means we must be open and receptive to him.

*“And he was afraid and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’”*

Genesis 28:17 (NRSV)

### HOW DO WE OPEN UP “THIN SPACES”?

#### 1) LIFE STRAIN .

e.g., Jacob leaves home (Genesis 28:5)

--Life’s challenges can either open us up, or close us up.

*“But by means of their suffering, he rescues those who suffer. For he gets their attention through adversity.”* Job 36:15 (NLT)

*“He delivers the afflicted in their affliction and opens their ears [to his voice] in adversity.”* Job 36:15 (Amplified)

*“You’ve opened my ears so I can listen.”* Psalm 40:6 (Message)

#### 2) PERSONAL PAIN .

e.g., Jacob fears his own death

*“Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him.”* Genesis 32:11 (NRSV)

e.g., Paul

*“I was so utterly, unbearably crushed. . . .”* II Corinthians 1:8 (NRSV)

Note the revelation of II Corinthians 12

#### 3) A QUIET BRAIN .

*“Be still, and know that I am God.”* Psalm 46:10 (NRSV)

*“Cease striving, and know that I am God.”* Psalm 46:10 (NASB)

*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28 (NRSV)

*“Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed. . . .”*

Genesis 28:11-12 (NRSV)